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Inter-Arab Affairs

Gulf Delegates Meet With UNSC Chairman

LD2501234691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1926 GMT 25 Jan 91

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program]

[Text] The representatives of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar held a meeting last night with the current chairman of the UN Security Council, the representative of Zaire. They told him that all efforts should now concentrate on forcing Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, restore Kuwaiti legitimacy, and withdraw Iraqi military formations from the Saudi borders.

The three representatives refered to UN Security Council Resolution 678 which authorized the Council to use force if Iraq had refused to withdraw from Kuwait by 15 January.

GCC Ministers Meet, Discuss Regional Events

Hold Closed Session

LD2601122191 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Their highnesses and excellencies, the foreign and information ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries, ended the closed session of their joint extraordinary meeting at the Palace of Conferences in Riyadh this afternoon. His Excellency Mubarak Tin 'Ali al-Khatsir, [name as heard] states that during the session views were exchanged. He explained that the meeting dealt with events in the region from a political and informational aspect.

View Kuwait Crisis 'Strategy'

LD2601171691 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Gulf Cooperation Council's [GCC] foreign and information ministers held an emergency meeting in Riyadh today, the day after Iraqi Scud missiles smashed into the Saudi Arabian capital. Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir was quoted as saying the ministers would study the Gulf situation. He added that contacts were made by the United Nations and other parties to contain the situation. He gave no details. GCC secretary general Abdullah Bisharah, of Kuwait, said ministers would study a strategy which was adopted by Gulf Arab information ministers soon after Iraq invaded Kuwait last August.

Issue Statement on Crisis

LD2601223691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jan 91

["Press release" by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Ministerial Council, issued at the end of the Council's 14th extraordinary session in Riyadh on 26 January]

[Text] The Ministerial Council held its 14th extraordinary session in Riyadh on 26 January 1991 to discuss regional developments since the beginning of the operation to liberate Kuwait, in implementation of UN Security Council [UNSC] Resolution 678, which gave the member states the power to give support to the Kuwaiti Government and use all the necessary means to implement the Council Resolution 660 and the subsequent resolutions related to the aggression against the state of Kuwait.

The Council expressed its great consideration for the fraternal and friendly states that stood by the side of right, supported legitimacy, adopted a firm stand against the Iraqi aggression, and contributed to the liberation of Kuwait.

The Council affirmed that the operation to liberate Kuwait is based on international legitimacy, as represented in UNSC resolutions which the Council adopted in accordance with Paragraph 7 of the UN Charter.

With the firm conviction in the inevitability of the liberation of Kuwait and the justness of the stand of the GCC states and full consideration for the international community—which confronted the aggression and adopted historical steps to remove it—the Ministerial Council aspires to complete the liberation of Kuwait, pray God Almighty, to protect the innocent people, and to spare their blood and keep them from the evils of the crimes of the Iraqi regime.

In this context, it expresses the stands of the GCC member states adopted by their majesties and highnesses at the Doha summit in December 1990, which affirm that the liberation of Kuwait, by peace if that is possible or by war if that is necessary, is unavoidable.

The Council recalls the resolutions of its previous sessions on this issue, announcing that any effort made by some parties must be employed to convince the Iraqi regime to withdraw its forces from the state of Kuwait and restore its legitimacy in compliance with the UNSC resolutions, and that any ideas or steps must be based on this topic before seeking the means for a cease-fire.

The Council reiterates its conviction that the operation to liberate Kuwait is carried out in the framework of UNSC Resolution 678 and expresses the will of the international community to achieve the aims mentioned in all the UNSC resolutions, which it adopted on Iraq's invasion of the state of Kuwait and the savage consequences of this aggression.

The Ministerial Council calls on all the Arab, Islamic, and friendly states, as well as all the world states, to support the steps emanating from the will of the international community and back all the measures adopted by the UNSC for the liberation of the state of Kuwait and the implementation of all the principles stipulated in its resolutions.

Riyadh, 26 January 1991

Security Council Rejects Maghreb Peace Efforts

LD2501203991 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The efforts of the Arab Maghreb countries at the UN Security Council, in their call to put an end to the Gulf War, have been met with the rejection of their effort by the majority of the five Council members, ruling out an end to the war before Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Algeria's ambassador to New York criticized this stance of the UN Security Council members, saying: Laws allow any country to call for a general debate on war at the Council. It is expected that consultations will be resumed today on this issue according to the promise made by the current president of the Council, who is from Zaire.

Within this framework and in support of the efforts of the Arab Maghreb, it was learned in Algiers today that the OAU has sent copies of the Organization's latest call for putting an end to the Gulf war to the current chairman of the Organization and to Yugoslavia which chairs the Nonaligned Movement.

Nonaligned Indicate Support

LD2501205391 Tripoli JANA in English 1737 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] New York, A'ina al-Nar [January] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Algeria's U.N. envoy said that the majority of the non-aligned member states had agreed upon the [Gulf peace] initiative put forward by the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) [UMA].

In a statement he gave to JANA's correspondent in New York, he added saying that the envoys from the AMU had made a series of consultations with the president of the U.N. Security Council and its permanent members to explain the initiative presented to the council.

He pointed out that the contacts made with the non-aligned states had confirmed the existence of high response to this initiative.

Chedli Klibi Calls for 'Urgent Consultations'

LD2501195991 Tripoli JANA in English 1638 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Tunis, January 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Chedli Klibi, the secretary general of the league of Arab countries, [title as received] called the Arab countries to do the impossible in order to start urgent consultations aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Kuwait crisis and stop the war in the Gulf before things get out of hands.

In an interview with AL-SABAH Tunisian magazine, he asserted the need to find a peaceful solution that will put things right once more and save from destruction Arab potentials built by the states in the region during successive decades.

Klibi said "There still exist a scope for joint Arab action to find a peaceful solution to stop the war raging in the Gulf". He pointed out that the aim of the international forces was war and has become the crushing of a member in the Arab family and the destruction of the potentials of a people "of which we Arabs are in urgent need for".

Correction to Libyan Delegate Speech at AMU Meeting

WA2801163591

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "'Probability' of Global War Cited at AMU Meeting," published in the 25 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 1:

Column one, between sourceline and first paragraph, insert the notation: [Report on speech by Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, secretary of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, welcoming Arab Maghreb Union foreign ministers on 22 January in Tripoli—recorded] (supplying notation);

Same column, first paragraph to read ... [Excerpts] The brother secretary ... (deleting editorial notation)

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Asks Gorbachev for Help To End War

LD2601193391 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] A PLO delegation met with the Soviet foreign minister and delivered a message from the leader, president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], to Gorbachev in which he asks for Soviet support to end the Gulf war. The Soviet foreign minister informed the delegation of his support for a formula that would insure the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the halting of military operations, and, after that, a final settlement for the Gulf crisis and the settlement of the general situation in the region, particularly the Palestine question, which could become impossible. He added: We do not believe the UN Security Council has given the United States the authority to destroy Iraq. A Soviet Foreign Ministry (?spokesman) said the treaty of friendship between Iraq and the USSR is still valid.

Official Says Israel Raiding Iraq From Turkey

LD2701222191 Belgrade TANJUG in English
'721 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, Jan 27 (TANJUG)—Member of the PLO Executive [Committee] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh has asserted that Israeli combat planes are taking off from military bases in Turkey and participating in raiding Iraq. We have information, Rabbuh told AL-WATAN daily today, that in the second-stage of war, Israel would try to attack Iraq via Jordan using ground forces.

An Israeli attack, as 'Abd Rabbuh put it, would coincide with the opening of American ground operations and it aimed at opening a second front against Iraq. Hence, the PLO, like the other Palestinian forces, believed that its role could not be "boiled down to political support for Iraq."

Stressing that the PLO at this time was already participating in the war with all its means available, including military means, Rabbuh said that the Palestinians would support Jordan in case of an Israeli ground operation.

Islamic Jihad Pledges Attacks on West Targets

PM2501115091 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian
24 Jan 91 p 8

[Interview with Shaykh Ibrahim Sirbil, military chief of the Islamic Jihad, by Fabio Barbieri in Amman on 23 January]

[Excerpts] Amman—"Yes, our political objectives do include individuals, as well as institutions. All our organizations have given their members the go-ahead." Shaykh Ibrahim Sirbil, military chief of the Islamic Jihad, spoke very slowly to avoid any misunderstandings. [passage omitted]

"We believe that the West launched the war not against Iraq but against Islam, and we all feel duty-bound to combat this aggression that aims to destroy the Muslim nation. The goals of this attack are America's domination of the world, after the weakening of the Soviet bear and the scaling down of the Islamic movement worldwide. This strategy is directed toward controlling oil and has as its objective the containment of the 'genie that has come out of the lamp.' Since gaining power in Iran, Islam has terrorized the political and religious leaders of the West—they accuse us of wanting to take Medina to the Louvre—which is why they have sent us their armies. This is why the Jihad and the al-Aqsah battalions must fight. We appeal, however, to all Christians to halt the arrogance of their leaders, especially Bush. Otherwise the desert will be the tomb of the men who have been sent here."

[Barbieri] How do you intend to take part in this war?

[Sirbil] The Jihad has decided to unleash constant attacks on political, economic, and military targets of the countries in the Gulf, including those of the Arab traitors. We have already given our members orders to proceed.

[Barbieri] So have you planned terrorist actions?

[Sirbil] You Westerners have a strange idea of terrorism. Are those who bombard our cities and kill our children not terrorists? We defend ourselves as we can.

[Barbieri] But is terrorism your way of defending yourselves?

[Sirbil] We are responding to the terrorism of others, but we will not hit civilian targets.

[Barbieri] Is an airport a civilian target?

[Sirbil] Not if it is used for military purposes.

[Barbieri] Is Italy a target?

[Sirbil] Italy is involved in this war. We greatly respect the people's demonstrations in the West in support of us, and we will do our utmost to avoid in any way hitting people who are not hostile to us.

[Barbieri] Can peace be achieved soon? Which Western politician could achieve this?

[Sirbil] We had great confidence in [French President] Mitterrand, but then he too took sides in the Gulf. The basis for peace is the withdrawal of the American forces, the guarantee that Iraq will then not be attacked, and the solution of the Palestinian question.

[Barbieri] Without Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait?

[Sirbil] This is an inter-Arab matter.

[Barbieri] What do you think of Jordan's position?

[Sirbil] If Israel does not join the war, the Jordanian Government will form its own assessments.

[Barbieri] But what if it were up to you?

[Sirbil] We are in favor of armed intervention alongside Iraq.

[Barbieri] Does this war complicate the fate of the hostages still in your hands?

[Sirbil] Yes, they are people whose country is at war in the Gulf.

[Barbieri] Why are you siding with Saddam, who until a few months ago was the least Islamic of Arab leaders?

[Sirbil] Because Saddam Husayn is an Arab; because Kuwait and Iraq are part of Islam; because Saddam is defending Islamic territory.

[Barbieri] Who gives your organization its money?

[Sirbil] Muslim believers.

[Barbieri] Is 'Arafat the right or the wrong man to lead the Palestinians?

[Sirbil] We say that 'Arafat is wrong not to pursue a Muslim blueprint and to have recognized Israel. We, however, are fighting for Islam, and as far as we are concerned, Palestine extends from water to water, from the Mediterranean to Jordan. [passage omitted]

DFLP's Hawatimah Views Soviet War Position

LD2701225591 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The Soviets, who up until now had been the main absentees in the search for peace, no doubt preoccupied with their internal problems, are now beginning to react timidly. In recent days President Gorbachev has issued warnings against the risks of extending the [Gulf] conflict; and his foreign minister, Mr. Bessmertnykh, in Washington today, is concerned about the growing threat of seeing very serious damage inflicted on Iraq. There is a growing threat to the civilian population of the country, he said.

So, is there some sort of turnaround in the position of the USSR? In the view of Mr. Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], a main component of the PLO, the USSR is the major absentee from the diplomatic efforts:

[Begin Hawatimah recording in Arabic fading to French translation] A few days ago I sent a message to the Soviet authorities from Algiers and Tunis. A Palestinian delegation has also just returned from Moscow, while the Soviet foreign minister is paying a visit to Washington. The Soviet foreign minister has said it is recognized that [UN] Resolution 678 has not been respected and that the U.S. forces are giving a false interpretation of this resolution. It is also different from the Soviet Union's interpectation. Resolution 678 has never called for Iraq to be attacked, but rather has called for the liberation of Kuwait.

We hope for an improvement in the Soviet position, Mr. Hawatimah said, because it is a sad thing for us and for all the countries of the Third World to see what in in fact a retreat from Moscow's position—the position it held when it was in the front line in confronting U.S. policy, which wants to grab the Third World, its goods, its wealth, and its oil. The current position of the Soviet Union could be explained by the fact that this country is currently very preoccupied by the internal situation—the interethnic conflicts and the economic crisis which this country is currently experiencing.

At the same time, it is important for us to pursue the efforts with the Soviet Union, Europe, and China to apply pressure on the United States to put an end to this war. The United States is currently in a very delicate position. It has promised its public a lightning war, but the situation is altogether different. [end recording]

'Abd-Rabbuh Views Changes in USSR Position

NC2701013591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1625 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee, on his return to Tunis today following talks in Moscow, by radio correspondent Muhammad al-Sharif, in Tunis on 26 January—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sharif] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, what was the framework of the Palestinian delegation's talks?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Over the past two days, we held intensive talks with Soviet officials in Moscow concerning the situation in the Gulf and the U.S. aggression against brotherly Iraq. I would like to note some of the new factors which we sensed during these talks. The most important of these is that the Soviet leadership believes that the UN Security Council resolutions do not grant the United States authorization to destroy the Iraqi economic and military structure. This is an important and new development in the situation. Of course, we have expressed the hope that this announcement or position will turn into concrete steps and measures. For us, a concrete step would be for some countries, such as the Soviet Union, the PRC, or some European countries to call a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss the aggression, to call for ending it completely, and to examine a comprehensive solution to the problems and issues of the region in accordance with international law.

[Al-Sharif] Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh, have you sensed that the Soviet Union is particularly ready to initiate intensive political activity to stop the aggression against Iraq?

['Abd-Rabbuh] As I said, we felt that the Soviet position shows more understanding than before of the aims of that aggression and of its overall goals—goals that are not confined to the Kuwait issue. The Soviet Union regards this aggression as a danger to its own interests as a country in close proximity to the Middle East. The [Soviet] promise was that some move will be made in the next few days. We are waiting to see how these views and positions will translate into concrete action.

[Al-Sharif] In the general framework of Soviet policy, have you sensed any change in the Soviet policies following the recent changes, particularly in the Foreign Ministry?

['Abd-Rabbuh] To some extent, yes. This is not only because of the changes in the leadership in the Soviet Union. It is also due to the fact that the Soviet Union is being subjected to a flagrant interference in its internal affairs. As we know, the West, particularly the United States, is currently interfering fully in the matters of the Baltic republics. Therefore, all the promises made to the Soviet Union of economic assistance have proved to be mere ink on paper. There are political and high-level quarters in the Soviet Union who feel that the previous policies failed to produce results and may even have led to a further disturbance in the balance [of power] and to weakening the Soviet Union's ability to pursue its goals on the domestic front as well as its international stature as a leading superpower.

[Al-Sharif] Thank you to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

Kuwait Raids Kill, Injure Many Palestinians

LD2501174991 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Statement by PLO official spokesman on 25 January, place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The U.S.-Zionist-NATO alliance renewed yesterday in the evening and this morning its aerial bombing and missile shelling of the areas heavily populated by Palestinian and Arab civilians in the southern and eastern parts of Kuwait, especially the al-Ahmadi region.

The new aggressive operations led to a number of martyrs and wounded, in addition to 15 Palestinians martyred and injured as a result of the previous raids and bombings.

The PLO, as it condemns and denounces these operations, calls on the international community to raise its voice in condemnation of these operations, to actively work toward stopping all the military operations, and to redouble its efforts to reach a cease-fire.

Algeria

Socialist Leader Criticizes American Gulf 'Haste'

LD2801002291 Paris International Service in French 1830 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Hocine Ayet Ahmed, leader of the Algerian Socialist Forces Front Party, was the guest on Europe Number One's Press Club in Paris this evening. He criticized excessive American haste in the Gulf:

[Begin Ahmed recording] If the Arabs had been left the task of seeking a solution—this does not mean that the Arabs had the means to confront the military machine of Kuwait [as heard]—it simply means that the Arabs speak the same tongue, they have the same language, they could have found expressions. They could have activated the Maghreb in particular: The Maghreb would perhaps have gotten together in a much more dynamic way, it would have taken initiatives. But I think that in the same way as the Americans did not leave the Arabs time to seek a solution, neither did they leave the United Nations time to affect the mechanisms which could have avoided making the decision. [end recording]

Party Freezes Political Activity

LD2701235691 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The Socialist Forces Front Party of Ayet Ahmed has decided to freeze all its political activities in the country,—including its rallies and seminars, and to postpone the convocation of its constituent assembly scheduled for the middle of next month till some later date due to the war in the Middle East.

Parliament Distributes Statement on Gulf War

LD2801001491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The Algerian People's National Assembly has sent copies of its recent statement denouncing the aggression on Iraq to the secretary generals of the Arab, international, and European parliamentary unions as well as parliaments of some of the nonaligned governments. The text of the statement was accompanied by a letter from the speaker of the national assembly, Abdelaziz Balkhadem, in which he called on these parliamentary bodies to intercede with their governments to urge them to seek a peaceful solution to the war in the Middle East.

Commentary Rejects Benjedid Stance on Gulf War

LD2401225691 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Commentary by correspondent Malek Benhassine]

[Text] Yesterday's speech by the [Algerian] president has provoked and is still provoking, many reactions. For those of you who have listened to our 1300 bulletin, you were able to hear the reactions of various political parties. Others gave their point of view this afternoon, which we reported to you. Apart from certain criticism of the timing and form of this speech, one observes that most of the opposition parties have more or less agreed with the analysis made by the head of state of the war in the Middle East.

I said most, except one: the Islamic Salvation Front, which until proven otherwise—that is until the next elections—is the first party in the country. This party, which is hardline as usual, rejects out of hand, through the voice of its chairman and spokesman, the speech of the head of state, whose declarations are described as provocative. It renews the demand for opening military training camps, and says it is in favor of sending contingents of volunteers to Iraq. It is in fact against the reaction of President Chadli Bendjedid, describing it as demagogic, and accompanying it with a serious warning. When the Iraqi people are going through this tragedy, when the fate of the Arab world is at stake, can Algeria take no risk in the spectacle, the sad spectacle of division, with partisan tactics and demagogy? Who would today claim being more Algerian than others, more in solidarity than the others, more committed? Who has the monopoly of courage? Nobody!

One should perhaps say, and repeat if need be, that what we are going through today cannot be resolved in terms of courage and physical courage. It is time for us to finally admit that in the Scud-Patriot duel, the physical engagement has little room. Is this to say to lower one's hands? Undoubtedly not! Solidarity can be expressed in various ways. In work first, and this is perhaps the first message given to us by the Iraqi people. Then in unity and the respect of our differences. Finally, in a responsibility which in the current circumstances excludes all political maneuvering and dictates that the strengthening of the pro-Iraqi front cannot be achieved at the expense of the weakening of the Algerian domestic front.

Egypt

Opposition Paper on Iraqi Aircraft in Sudan, Yemen

NC2801132591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] AL-AHRAR weekly, the organ of the opposition Liberal Party, reports in its issue today that Saddam Husayn has sent a number of his warplanes to Sudan, Yemen, and Iran, and that Egypt is following with interest and closely monitoring the movements of the aircraft that have landed in Sudan. The paper adds that it has been reported that other Iraqi aircraft arrived in Yemen. Twenty-four [figure as received] Iraqi aircraft have landed in Iranian airports over the last 24 hours.

Observers have commented on these movements by Iraqi aircraft, stating that Saddam Husayn is smuggling them abroad to save them from bombardment by the coalition countries' forces. At the same time, these aircraft will constitute a strategic reserve that he can use when the air battles begin. However, Iran has impounded the 24 aircraft that landed there,and declared that it will not hand them over to the Iraqi authorities before the end of the war, so that Iran might not be accused of altering the neutral stance it has adopted on the Gulf war.

The paper notes that Iraq did not protest to Iran, but only demanded that Iran hand over the pilots without the aircraft, since it is in Iraq's interest for Iran to keep the aircraft away from the missiles of the coalition fighter planes.

Information Minister Notes Saddam Should Withdraw

NC2701170991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has affirmed that the dictatorial Iraqi regime's insistence on refusing to withdraw from the State of Kuwait and and on rejecting the resolutions of the United Nations, the Security Council, and the Arab League forced it to wage a military confrontation with the entire world. He said that President Husni Mubarak warned of this in all his initiatives and calls, which were rejected by the Iraqi regime.

Safwat al-Sharif said: Iraq's leader has ignored the civilized manner of dealing with international problems through peaceful methods. The civilized manner has been observed throughout the world. The ruling Iraqi regime has also ignored the cultural changes and the major changes in today's world, which is moving toward the age of human rights and the development of societies—the age in which freedom, democracy, and dialogue will prevail instead of confrontation.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif added that since the beginning of the Iraqi invasion of the state of Kuwait, the Egyptian political position under President Husni Mubarak has largely abided by pan-Arab commitment, clarity of vision, wisdom, reason, enlightnment, and a correct assessment of matters. He noted that Egyptian and international initiatives, calls, and peaceful efforts toward effecting a withdrawal of the Iraqi regime from the State of Kuwait were rejected by the Iraqi regime. That regime has placed the Arab nation in an impasse that it has never experienced, neither in ancient nor contemporary history. The Iraqi regime has also placed the Arab world, the Middle East, and the entire world at a crucial turning point with regard to the future of security, peace, justice, and stability of all of humanity.

Ghali Holds Press Conference on Gulf, Arab Ties

NC2701185091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1148 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Egypt is holding international contacts with foreign countries, the United Nations, and international organizations interested in environmental matters in order to face the danger resulting from the pollution in the Gulf, and to seek the cooperation of these countries and organizations to remove the danger of pollution from the region.

Dr. Butrus Ghali said that the region was exposed to similar pollution during the Iraq-Iran war, and the international community was able to face the danger threatening it. Speaking at a press conference today at the Public Information Authority, Dr. Butrus Ghali added that Egypt stands on the side of the international alliance formed in accordance with Security Council Resolution 678 to liberate Kuwait.

Dr. Ghali noted in his statement that Egypt attaches special significance to the Palestine question. Egypt, he added, hopes that international efforts will be mobilized to solve this issue, once the issue of liberating Kuwait ends.

Dr. Butrus Ghali affirmed that Egypt supports any initiative to stop the ongoing fighting in the Gulf with the proviso that the Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait. He added that the liberation of Kuwait is not linked to the destruction of Iraq or to changing the system there. Egyptian policy is noninterference in the internal affairs of any Arab country.

Dr. Ghali said that Egypt has dealt with the Iraqi regime in the past, and is ready to deal with it again if it withdraws from Kuwait and if the legitimate government is restored to Kuwait. He noted that Egypt believes in establishing a security order based on the wishes of the Arab countries and the Arab treaties. He said that there is nothing that prevents seeking assistance from the United Nations in this respect.

Dr. Ghali affirmed that no negotiations can be held to solve the problem of the Gulf before Iraq announces its withdrawal from Kuwait.

Dr. Ghali noted in his statements that Israel has obtained military and economic assistance because it was exposed to Iraqi missiles.

Dr. Butrus Ghali said that the visit to the United States today by Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr. 'Atif Muhammad 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; has three objectives. The first is to hold consultations between the two countries on bilateral relations; the second is to discuss the situation after solving the Gulf problem; and the third is to discuss economic relations and Egypt's efforts with the IMF and the World Bank to rectify the course of its economy.

Dr. Ghali affirmed that Egypt believes that it is in the interest of the Arab nation if Iraq has a say in Arab decisionmaking. He also stated that Egypt has good relations with Jordan.

Dr. Ghali noted that Egyptian forces are being deployed in Saudi Arabia to defend Saudi Arabia and liberate Kuwait.

Dr. Ghali said that the measure taken by Egypt on giving entry visas in advance to Maghreb states nationals is a temporary security and precautionary measure; it has no political background. Dr. Butrus Ghali affirmed that no Egyptian forces are deployed on the border between Egypt and Sudan.

Concluding his press conference, Dr. Ghali said: Egypt hopes that the new Somali Government will achieve national reconciliation. He said that Egypt attempted to sponsor a meeting for the Somali parties to achieve this reconciliation, and it hopes that an appropriate atmosphere will be prepared to convene this meeting in Cairo.

Foreign Minister Visits U.S. With Message for Bush

NC2701072891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0637 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Washington this morning with a message from President Husni Mubarak for American President George Bush as part of the continuous consultation between the two countries.

Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, and Ambassador Ahmad Abu-al-Ghit, political adviser to the foreign minister, are accompanying Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid.

During the visit, 'Abd-al-Majid will hold a series of meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and U.S. Administration officials to consult, exchange views, and assess the situation in light of the latest Gulf developments.

At the end of his visit to Washington, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid is expected to go on to New York, where he will meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Meanwhile, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd will hold talks with U.S. Secretary of Treasury Nicholas Brady and World Bank and IMF officials to review the outcome of the intensive meetings that were held in Cairo recently on the signing of a final agreement between Egypt and the IMF, especially focusing on scheduling Egypt's debts.

Pakistani Prime Minister Sharif Pays Visit

Arrives in Cairo, Comments

NC2501220191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1905 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this evening on a short visit to Egypt that will last one day. The visit comes within the framework of his current tour in the region which has taken him so far to Iran, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister, and Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, were at the airport to welcome him.

[Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1930 GMT on 25 January adds, "Tomorrow President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will receive Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif who arrived in Cairo from Amman this evening along with his delegation as part of his tour which included Turkey, Iran, and Syria.

["To receive him upon his arrival was Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

["Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stated upon his arrival that his talks with President Mubarak will take place within the framework of fraternity, friendship, and continuous negotiation between the two countries. During the talks, they will also exchange viewpoints on the situation in the Gulf region.

["Responding to a question on whether he has a new peace intiative, he said: We came to hold talks with our brothers in Egypt.

["Answering another question on whether he is optimistic, he said: We must exert all possible efforts so that we will not regret things later on.

["The Pakistani prime minister's visit to Egypt will last one day, and then he will travel to Saudi Arabia."]

Mubarak Receives Sharif

NC2601075991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Mr. Sharif arrived in Cairo yesterday evening on a short visit to Egypt as part of his tour of a number of Arab countries for consultations on a possible conclusion to the Gulf war.

Discusses Gulf Situation

BK2601113091 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, had a meeting with President Husni Mubarak of Egypt in Cairo this morning and discussed the Gulf situation and its impact on the Muslim ummah. There was complete understanding between the two sides. Mr. Nawaz Sharif explained to President Husni Mubarak the detailed talks which he had with the Iranian, Turkish, Syrian, and Jordanian leaders on the Gulf issue. He said Pakistan felt deeply concerned over the colossal loss of human lives and damage to property on account of the ongoing war. The entire Muslim ummah has been put to a great test and felt deeply shocked over the loss resulting thereby.

Welcoming the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Husni Mubarak lauded his efforts to bring back peace in the Gulf, which is being shattered due to President Saddam Husayn's adamant attitude to listen to reason.

Later briefing newsmen about the talks, the Egyptian prime minister said the principled stand adopted by Pakistan on this issue has been widely hailed in the Muslim world. He expressed the hope that the initiative taken by the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, would certainly yield positive results.

Prime Minister Sidqi Comments

NC2601102191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Jan GMT 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi has said that Mr. Nawaz Sharif's visit to Egypt and a number of states in the region is part of the role Pakistan and the Islamic Conference Organization might play in resolving the Gulf crisis.

In a statement following the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Mr. Nawaz Sharif, Sidqi said the Pakistani prime minister is listening to viewpoints on the crisis. He denied that Mr. Sharif put forward any sort of initiative.

Commenting on Iraq's pumping of huge amounts of oil in the Gulf, Dr. Sidqi stressed that this is a kind of bankruptcy on the part of the Iraqi leadership. He described the Iraqi action as unreasonable because the repercussions will affect Iraq itself. [passage omitted]

Discussions Called 'Fruitful'

NC2601151591 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif left Cairo for Saudi Arabia this afternoon.

Sharif was seen off by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. Dr. Sidqi said that during the visit views were exchanged on the Gulf crisis. He added that aspects pertaining to bilateral ties were also discussed during the visit.

In reply to a question on the view he and President Mubarak might have agreed upon, the Pakistani prime minister said: I held talks with President Mubarak and Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. I also exchanged views with them. I believe that the two sides have the desire to find a solution to the Gulf crisis. He added that today's meeting with President Mubarak was useful and fruitful.

People's Assembly Declares Support for Gulf Policy

NC2601160691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—At the conclusion of its debate on Gulf developments in light of the report submitted on this by the General Committee of the People's Assembly today, the People's Assembly approved a draft resolution providing for the following:

First, the assembly declares its full support for His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in all his efforts and steps to tackle the crisis in order to achieve peace, avert bloodshed, prevent the outbreak of hostilities, safeguard legitimacy, repulse aggression, and liberate the State of Kuwait. Likewise, the Assembly declares its support and backing for his excellency the president in all the steps and measures that he might take in this regard.

Second, the assembly endorses the farsighted policy being pursued by the government on the Arab and international scenes in this regard. The assembly also approves of the measures the government has taken to tackle the Gulf crisis.

Third, the assembly supports the dispatch of Egyptian Armed Forces units to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. These units were deployed there at the request of the two countries. Furthermore, this dispatch of troops to these two countries was in implementation of the Collective Arab Defense Pact and in keeping with the Arab League Charter and the UN Charter.

Fourth, the People's Assembly salutes our valiant Armed Forces, the immune shield of the nation, who are ready to defend Arab security and dignity everywhere and who, through their martyrs and the heroic feats of their men, have inscribed chapters of glory and pride for the country. Likewise, the assembly hails our Armed Forces units deployed in Gulf territory to keep the holiest trusts and to achieve the most noble objectives. The reference here is to the trust to defend the security and safety of brothers in Arabism and Islam.

Mubarak Speech Praised

NC2601162591 Cairo MENA in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—The Arab, Foreign and National Security Affairs Committee of the Shura [Consultative] Council today expressed support for President Husni Mubarak's steps regarding the Gulf crisis.

The Committee also affirmed in its meeting held here today that President Mubarak was frank in his historical statement he made before the joint session members of the People's Assembly and the Shura Council on Thursday [sentence as received].

Members of the committee stress that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn rejected all appeals addressed by President Mubarak to achieve peace and stability in the Middle East area and affirmations on the necessity of implementing the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit and Security Council on the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait without any ifs and buts and reinstatement of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

Members of the committee affirmed the importance of working [words indistinct]-Palestinian issue after settling the Gulf crisis.

Members of the committee also called for the importance of stability in the area after ending of the present Gulf war.

They expressed their categoric support for President Mubarak's historical decision of dispatching Egyptian Armed Forces to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, in defense of the sacred Arab lands and in application of the Common Arab Defence Pact.

They affirmed that President Mubarak's statement on Thursday is a historical document in which he sincerely expressed Egypt's role a [as received] Arab and international levels.

The committee is to prepare an urgent report to be submitted to the Shura Council for discussion during its session due to start on February 2.

Kuwaiti Amir Thanks Mubarak for 'Historic' Speech

NC2701031091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received a cable of thanks and appreciation from Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir for the content of the speech his excellency the president delivered before a joint session of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council.

In his cable, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad said that the speech gave all the facts of the situation and left nothing covered up. He described President Mubarak as a man of principle who vindicates right and justice. He added: Such a position was not strange, as it was taken by a righteous Egyptian who speaks on behalf of the fraternal Egyptian people.

The Kuwaiti amir repeated that the Kuwaiti people will never forget President Mubarak's historic speech. He beseeched God to protect Egypt and its people from every calamity and to grant President Mubarak success in his noble endeavors.

Defense Minister on Forces' Gulf Role

NC2701003091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, has emphasized that the political and military purpose of the Egyptian forces' presence in the Gulf region is to protect the region in a way that will ensure stability of the states in the region and create the appropriate conditions for the security and stability of Egypt and for its continued development and prosperity of its people.

General Abu-Talib noted that the Egyptian Armed Forces' task is based on the consideration that they constitute a force capable of successfully implementing its duties with the least possible losses while maintaining a balance in the strategic deployment of the Armed Forces in the Arab Republic of Egypt to carry out their principal task; namely, to defend the territory of the homeland against any threat. He said that the Egyptian forces and their command in Saudi Arabia are operating under Saudi command and that these forces were transported by Egyptian means and under Egyptian protection.

In a statement to the People's Assembly Defense and National Security Committee this evening, the defense minister lauded the Saudi response in aiding and caring for Egyptian forces in the Saudi Kingdom. He also praised the Armed Forces' extraordinary efficiency in transporting the forces and in the implementation and planning of the land, naval, and air strategic movement operation.

Discussing the current military situation, General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib said that Iraq has concentrated approximately 560,000 men, about 735 fighter planes, and more than 4,200 tanks in and around Kuwaiti territory as a military challenge designed to continue the occupation of Kuwait. He indicated that, as a whole, the Iraqi forces total one million.

He said that the Egyptian, Saudi, and Kuwaiti forces are assuming defensive positions. These forces, he said, are deployed to the south of the Kuwaiti-Saudi border and are prepared to confront any eventuality. He noted that these forces have not yet been subjected to any aggressive acts and they are carrying out their duty in terms of protection and preparedness as the situation dictates in such circumstances.

The defense minister added that the Arab forces total 138,000 troops, about 900 tanks, and 470 fighter aircraft, and that the foreign forces total approximately 465,000 men with about 3,000 tanks and 1,700 fighter aircraft.

Continuing his statement before the People's Assembly, Gen. Abu-Talib noted that after all the chances for a peaceful solution had been exhausted, the implementation of the military option began on the morning of 17 January with a concentrated air bombardment. He stressed that there is no match in power between Iraq and the allied troops, whose objective, he said, is to inflict heavy damage on Iraq's strategic and military targets.

The defense minister added that Iraq had resorted to the use of surface-to-surface missiles against Saudi cities to affect morale, and had elected to strike cities in Israel in an attempt to involve it in the crisis and to divert the attention from the main issue, namely; the occupation of Kuwait.

He noted in this respect that the threats against Egypt do not pose a major danger, since the range of the Iraqi missiles does not allow them to hit any major targets in Egypt. He said that the Egyptian Armed Forces are prepared to face any aggression. He added: We rule out any chemical threat.

Regarding the possible occurrence of individual acts of sabotage, Gen. Abu-Talib said the Civil Defense Department of the Interior Ministry is capable of dealing with them and that the Armed Forces have placed their resources at its disposal for assistance. Security along all coasts and border points has been tightened by naval, air, and border troops to prevent infiltration.

In his statement, the defense minister talked about the war scenario. He said it could be summed up as the longest possible period of air bombardment of Iraqi targets to convince Iraq to withdraw without a ground battle, or at least to keep human casualties to the minimum. He noted that this period could be long.

The minister said that the current situation in general does not require the military communiques to be issued [word indistinct] the military activity. He added: We make an updated statement every day on any events and we are extremely serious about the credibility of these statements.

Gen. Abu-Talib said we are thinking about what the crisis might result in and about the post-crisis period. We are studying all the possibilities from the military standpoint.

In his statement, Gen. Abu-Talib said Egyptian troops in Saudi Arabia comprise an armored division, a mechanized infantry division, shock troops, in addition to various support and logistics personnel and a tactical command.

He added that, in the United Arab Emirates Egypt has a paratroopers' force, supported by chemical decontamination personnel. He pointed out that the mission of the troops deployed in Saudi Arabia is to defend the Kingdom and to be prepared, according to the situation, to carry out any other mission ordered by the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

Arrivals From Iraq Report on Morale, Damage

NC2701005491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—One hundred and seventy-two Sudanese passengers left Cairo airport for home this afternoon after arriving from Iraq via the port of Nuwaybi'. Buses took them to Cairo airport where they boarded a Sudanese aircraft that later left for Khartoum.

The passengers said that Baghdad streets have been abandoned by pedestrians and residents, who spend most of their time in underground shelters under very difficult living conditions. They added that the morale of the Iraqi people is very bad. They went on to say that the aircraft of the allied troops have destroyed most of the bridges and vital installations in Iraq.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Address Reviews Gulf Situation

LD2701062891 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Address by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a meeting with secretaries of vocational unions in Tripoli on 26 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Talking about Libyan radio, finally you have formed a committee comprising 71 members to run it. What have we got to do with it? Anybody who talks about the broadcasting station should be one of the 71 unions. [sentence as heard] Everyone must refer to his union and express his opinion. He can, as a member of the people's committee, ask his union to reflect his opinion saying we want the radio station to be this or that particular way.

We will talk now about the war: Kuwait, Iraq, and Libyan radio. Do calls for rushing to help the Arabs, or standing against aggression, or solving this crisis come from Libyan radio? We have plenty of radios. Listen to Radio Jordan. You would think it is the radio of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. How can this be? They can see Jerusalem with their bare eyes; why do they not cross and liberate it with rifles?

If it all depends upon the radio, we, thank God, have plenty of them. You can hear them all: Radio of Fraternal Tunisia, Radio Algeria, Radio Jordan, Radio Abu-'Ammar, in addition to Radio Iraq. Radio Iraq is the most reasonable among them. It is calm and relays songs at intervals, and more calm than Radio Israel. At night they have quizzes and entertainment and you hear no flaming songs. Even when missiles are landing on them, their radio is very normal.

Is war waged by words or radios? Well, change the radio programs. Make it all flaming songs, and then? Ten days and we hear nothing but flaming songs. What's next? Some would say war cannot be waged by words, but by deeds. All right then, you sit down and decide. The basic people's congresses in Libya can sit down and decide to enter the war. However, against whom they do not know because there are 10 Arab countries against 10 Arab countries.

However, the first 10 have the multinational force on their side, along with the Security Council and the UN resolutions. There is a country that has occupied another country, and Arabs who have asked the help of the international community. They have responded to the request and have come. The war is not clear. If it were only Iraq being threatened by America, we would all have gone to Baghdad and declared our stand by her. And if America was attacking Iraq while she was sitting inside her boundries building herself, then without any discussion we would be by Iraq's side, killing or being killed.

However, now if you are fighting on Iraq's side, it means that you are fighting the people of Kuwait, fighting the people of the Arabian Peninsula, fighting the people Abu-Dhabi, the people of Qatar, the people of Bahrain, the people of Syria, the people of Egypt, and the people of Morocco. It means you will be fighting all of these peoples. It means you are saying: I am supporting Iraq whether she is right or wrong. It means you are against Egypt, against Syria, against Morocco, against the Arabian Peninsula, which is called Saudi Arabia, against the UAE [United Arab Emirates], against Bahrain, against Qatar, and against the people of Kuwait. All of these are fighting on one side. They are all on Kuwait's side.

A Kuwaiti aircraft was downed, and a Saudi aircraft has downed an Iraqi aircraft. British aircraft and Italian aircraft are taking part. One might ask what these Italians and Australians [as heard] are doing? They in fact harbor no hostility toward Iraq. Take Argentina, for example; what hostility is there between it and Iraq? There is no hostility at all; on the contrary there is great cooperation between them. Is Japan an enemy of Iraq? She is not an enemy of Iraq. There is great cooperation between Japan and Iraq. Australia is the same. Well, then, what is the reason? Pakistan and Bangladesh have great cooperation with Iraq. Niger, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Australia, and Argentina all have sent forces. Why are they against Iraq while Iraq is their friend and maintains trade projects and industry with them? They say we are not going against Iraq. But the United Nations has given Iraq a deadline to withdraw from Kuwait, and, if she does not, the international community must use force, according to Security Council resolutions, to evict Iraq, and we are part of the international community; we are members of the United Nations. We were asked to contribute to the campaign of evicting Iraq from Kuwait. Question: Who is on your side? They say the multinational force, Arabs, and Muslims.

Someone comes and says I am on Iraq's side against America. Very well, we are all against America. In fact all of these peoples fighting against Iraq are against America. However, the question now is not a question of America and Iraq, at least in the current diplomatic context. The question is related to a UN member called Kuwait. The Arab League was incapable of recovering Kuwait and other states on Kuwait's borders were frightened of being invaded. They requested the help of America at first. America came to Saudi Arabia to defend it, later the Security Council met and issued resolutions stipulating that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait according to the UN Charter.

It is in fact an excellent mechanism if it is implemented in all cases. But, as you might ask, why do they implement it on Iraq only. We are not against Kuwait, but in fact we are against the occupation of Kuwait; there is no doubt of this. One day al-Sadat thought of occupying Libya with the help of America. What would we do then? We would ask the help of anyone, even the devil himself.

Can Libya march now and take Tunisia? If this is acceptable, then Egypt takes Sudan, and Syria marches to take Jordan. Had we said to the world and declared that we were uniting ourselves and announced a program of unity by force, telling the world that these events were interactions within the Arab world and no one should interfere, the world would have said: All right, you Arabs are marching on each other and the strong eats the weak to realize your unity; you are free. I wish we could reach a state of affairs of this sort and we could open the borders. However, this is not the case now.

The question is whether Kuwait belongs to the Iraqis. If Kuwait belongs to the Iraqis, we, who are not Iraqis, would have nothing to do with Kuwait, have nothing to do with Iraq if it belongs to the Iraqis. Okay, you have occupied Kuwait, taken Kuwait, and consider it part of you. Regardless, by God, it is not part of you.

But in the end you have entered into a battle, the seriousness of which you are not aware. It reflects on us. Why did you not consult us? How can it be that I only heard about this from the radio? By God, I could not believe it when they reported Iraq had entered Kuwait. I could not believe at all that Iraq had taken Kuwait. The day before we were with him, and he failed to tell us anything about this. He did not even suggest at the Baghdad summit that Kuwait was part of Iraq. He said Kuwait's oil was being sold cheaply and it was killing us. Now, the war of Kuwait has dealt us a severe blow: The price of oil has tumbled to half price. The Libyan people have been struck because they live on oil. Its price has come down to $15. And, after the battle ends, there is a chance that the price will hit $5 or even $1 per barrel. This is because now, during the war, they have poured all the reserves and pumped large quantities of oil so as to cover the needs of the war. When the war ends they will not be in need of the quantity available in the market, and supply will be greater than demand. If supply is greater than demand, the price falls. The oil supply will increase after the war and the price of oil will be next to nothing.

Who will be harmed? The people who live on oil exports, such as the Libyan people, the Iraqi people, and the Algerian people. So far the war has made us lose half of this month's revenues, as well as those of the next and the next. I expect the price to fall to the lowest level after the war is over.

Why did you not consult with us? This is one point, and, after all, do we appear to be only shouting? No, we have come forward with initiatives and no one ever took notice. Even the remarks I make are not broadcast on the radio of our Iraqi brothers. However, we carry out our pan-Arab duty, whether they broadcast it or not. Even regarding the economic blockade—medicine, food, and clothes—Radio Baghdad does not pay any attention to it. [passage indistinct]

The question of Kuwait concerns you, and I have nothing to do with it. This is not a pan-Arab issue. If this were the liberation of Palestine—that issue concerns us all. When to liberate it and who will do what will be agreed upon, and each and every one will bear responsibility. He who flees on the day of the march will be shamed; we will consider him fallen and trample on him with our feet.

However, we have no knowledge of a missile striking the Israelis resulting in the liberation of Palestine. No one has consulted us or asked us to prepare ourselves. How can this be, as if we are entering the ceremony knowing nothing at all? No, not at all. We are not deaf. We are not soldiers receiving orders and nothing more. We are people responsible for their future and their fate. When they attacked us here, we did not occupy Kuwait or anything else. America attacked us, along with NATO, and the Arabs did not even hold a summit. They used to hang up the telephone on us. Nevertheless, I did not want it to affect the morale of the Libyans at the time. Even members of the leadership and the brothers with me did not hear this until yesterday—that 'x' and 'y' had hung up the telephone. They asked me why I did not tell them; I said never; it would have affected the Libyans' morale to say that Arab presidents and kings had hung up the telephone when I spoke to them; that it was shameful not to meet, at least before the Libyan people. [passage indistinct]

Oh, well, you have to shoulder your own responsibility, they told me. You arm the Palestinian organizations, you support terrorism, and you have blown up I do not know what club. O brothers, I said, we did not blow up any club and we did not carry out any terrorism. It is an armed struggle of the Palestinian people and it is our cause as a whole. And when they attacked us in Libya, it was expected that all Arabs would resist alongside Libya because Libya was attacked for a pan-Arab issue, for Arab unity, and for the armed struggle of the Palestinian people. This is what they call terrorism. Until now, they said Libya practices terrorism because she arms the Palestinian resistance, or because she calls for Arab unity and independence and calls for the independence of all peoples and no one should have hegemony over anyone else. They say this contravenes the American policy in the world at large. Up until now, Libya is the arch enemy and is on the [words indistinct].

Iraq and America, in fact, had no problem between them. Had it not been for Kuwait there would have been no problems between Iraq and Ameica. They differed, yet even in Geneva [Tariq 'Aziz] told [Baker] there were no problems between them. There is no problem about Palestine. The oil, no problem on it. Iran, Iraq has broken her thorn and is standing against her. What do you want from us. It is only Kuwait, and you leave it for me. They told him: No we will not leave Kuait for you. The problem between America and Iraq is only Kuwait.

Although Libya did not occupy Kuwait, however, the problem is there and the sanctions are in place and Libya is an arch enemy. Only two weeks ago Bush's message to the Congress stated that Libya constitutes an exceptional danger to the U.S. interests in the world. This is because U.S. interests in the world demand that the Arab nation remains incoherent and weak and that Zionism continues to occupy Palestine and remain strong in the middle of the Arab world. Capitalism sucks the people's blood, and Libya opposes all these colonial and imperialist policies; therefore, it constitutes a danger to them as imperialists, colonialists, and enemies of the unity of peoples. They want the entire world to be weak and bow down before them so they can control it.

Our Iraqi bretheren until now were not (?interested). We ask them for clues as to how to get out of this problem. They say there is nothing they want. They do not want anything and they are staying in Kuwait because Kuwait belongs to the Iraqis.

I cannot understand 10 days of war, followed by President Saddam announcing that there are only 90 martyrs; how can this be?

I doubt it is an exercise with live ammunition over Iraq to test weapons and their effectiveness.

In fact, Iraq is not resisting. For 10 days, Iraq has not launched any air nor land attacks. It has not occupied positions [words indistinct] so that one can say that fighting has been going on for 10 days. Why 10 days? What are they waiting for? They are leaving Kuwait aside and they are targeting northern Iraq and everywhere in Iraq. Despite all this, the damage is minimal. We cannot understand this. Why have they have been fighting for 10 days?

Do they want Iraq to announce that it will pull out from Kuwait? In my view, the issue in not one of announcements. When war starts the matter becomes a concrete matter. They can go to Kuwait. They went beyond Kuwait, and they are targeting Iraq itself. Ten days have already passed, and there could be another 10 days. If Iraq had used a squadron every day to launch attacks against the allies and the allies had counterattacked, or if Iraq had used a unit to attack and the allied forces fought back, then we could say that these forces could not reach Kuwait because they were engaged in fighting, some of them fled, and others had been taken as POW's. However, no such thing has happened. Iraq decided to operate from underground; it is staying put. From time to time it launches a missile, one minute against Saudi Arabia and the next against the Israelis.

If you want to win a war, you minimize the number of your enemies, not increase it. Iraq is determined to bring the Israelis into the battle being waged against it. What does this mean? If I want to embark on a war I should limit the number of enemies confronting me. To try to provoke those who are not fighting me, even if they were my enemies, and ask them to join the fight against me—I cannot understand this logic.

I cannot accept watching people who allow themselves to be roasted like sheep and chicken. The people decide their own destiny. Even the Libyan people are free to decide whether or not to join the fighting. The basic people's congress can meet and decide. If you want to take your air force, tanks, missiles, and money to Iraq, you are free to do so. If you decide to give your oil to Iraq, you can do so. Because of this Kuwait fighting, there is no oil left in Iraq. You are free to decide whatever you wish. You can even go yourselves to Iraq.

What if Iraq says that it does not want any aircraft or tanks or anything? [words indistinct] I have been trying to contact President Saddam by telephone since 2 August, but to no avail. He has not spoken to me on the telephone. All he did was to send me messages. I wanted to talk to him on the telephone to ask him about the way we are heading [words indistinct]. If we want to liberate Palestine, instead of liberating it, we should allow a number of fedayeen to launch attacks against their occupied land, and nothing else. [sentence as heard]

Now we see Jordan turning matters upside down and pretending to be revolutionary. It supports Iraq in addition to other matters. Jordan should allow the Palestinians, let us say one, two, three, or five Palestinian fedayeen to cross the borders into Israel to blow up an Israeli target. I can swear that if this happens, so-called Israel cannot survive for one single year in the face of a true and genuine people's war. Israel is a small place. However, nobody lets the Palestinians do this. When we asked the reason why, Jordan said that the Israelis would launch punitive raids against them.

If we have missiles to launch, an air defense system and reinforcements we do not need to fight the United States, we do not need Kuwait, nor do we need anything else for that matter. We should resist, and if we are faced with Israeli strikes we should destroy them. We should allow the people's war to continue. For the past 20 years, 21 years, and 22 years we have been pleading with our brothers to open official memos to be referred to the Arabs, Arab representatives, and to the Arab League. We told them they should either conduct an organized war for the liberation of Palestine, a people's war of liberation, or a war of attrition. At least let the Palestinian people wage this war. If you, the Arabs do not want to take part in such a war, let the Palestinians fight, because it is their land.

Let the Palestinian people, owners of the land, fight, and you, in the Arab countries, in case of an air raid in response to a fedayeen raid, should stand steadfast and repulse it. Go ahead and own machine guns, air defense systems, and fortifications, but do not move and never join the Palestinians with your troops so that they cannot say the Arabs have attacked the Israelis. Let the Palestinians train, and arm them and let them go, and if any response comes from the Israelis, then confront them. If we could stand steadfast in this manner for one year, the so-called state of the Jews would be finished. [passage indistinct]

God willing, the mother of wars will come true and Palestine will be liberated. These are all wishes. God willing, imperialism will be destroyed, and we will start as soldiers from Iraq. God willing, all these things will come true.

However, our brothers in Iraq do not respond to us; they do not show interest in our initiatives, and everything they do is for the sake of Iraq. In the end, God be praised, President Saddam himself admitted that losses were minimal. And the 10 days of missiles and 1,000 aircraft and all the talks we have heard produced only 90 martyrs and 60 injured and 19 aircraft. Even the U.S. Air Force has acknowledged that only 19 aircraft were destroyed. Iraq has 700 aircraft, and 19 aircraft is nothing; they can go down within a week of training. It means there are no losses at all. Very well. But I am surprised why I hear every day about air raids, air raids, why, what is going on? If they claim it is Kuwait, why do they not raid Kuwait and take it? Is there something in Iraq that affects them and they have gone to strike it? Had they tried to take Kuwait and something came from Iraq to affect them and they went to strike at that, we would say it is reasonable. Iraq has declared that everything is underground and is staying put while they are pounding: the first day, the second, and the 10th. Are we going to continue like this for the 20th, the 30th, or the 40th day? I can not understand this, either from the military viewpoint or from the political. Under the present circumstances, one cannot say everything one wants to say. [passage omitted]

What about those who support Iraq? If Iraq was only fighting against the United States, it goes without saying that we would die with Iraq in the same trench; this cannot be questioned, and those who hestitate, they may go to hell. However, there are those who say that if you are with Iraq now, this means that you are against the people of Kuwait. These people will wonder why. They will ask you: Am I not your Arab brother? How come Iraq occupies me overnight? The people of Bahrain and Qatar would wonder whether, because they have small populations, that they could be occupied. Is Arab blood not a single blood? Is the blood of small Arab populations mere water and that of large populations more important? Arab blood is one. [passage omitted]

Syria says that it has sent forces to defend Kuwait and other small Arab populations. Egypt, Morocco, and Niger—your neighbors—Pakistan, and Bangladesh have sent forces to recover Kuwait. As I asked you before, is there really any animosity between Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Iraq? Not at all; Iraq has given them substantial aid. Is there animosity between Argentina and Iraq? No, on the contrary, they have strong cooperation ties. How then did these countries say that the UN resolutions should be implemented by force? And the entire international community is invited to implement these resolutions to recapture Kuwait. Up to this very day, the United States is asking Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait; then there would be no problem between them. On the other hand Iraq is saying, leave Kuwait to me and there would be no problem between us. This is the truth that the masses should understand. [passage omitted]

At the end of the day, and regrettably, there can be no Arab unity in the future, because we are still behaving like foreign countries toward one another. Each country has its own sovereignty, borders, and interests. Each country fights for its own interests. This is very regrettable. A few years ago, we fought alongside Iran against Iraq; we should understand this. In the past Iraq has fought Libya through Chad. It gave cars, millions to Habre; it provided training and detained POW's. All the weapons in Chad came from Iraq. Iraq set up six radio stations hostile to us. We cannot deny that we fought alongside the Iranian revolution against Iraq, and Iraq fought us with the help of Chad, France, and the United States. You saw how the United States behaved in Chad, to say the least. It used to have relations with the United States.

This means that up to this very minute, we are still foreign countries toward one another. We are still fighting each other and each country has its own alliances. We appealed insistently and said that this is one nation; it has one interest, one future, and one destiny. There is no other solution without Arab unity, because without such unity we will remain foreigners. As you can see, we now find an Arab in alliance with a non-Arab against another Arab, and an Arab attacking another Arab, and a non-Arab is supporting an Arab against an Arab. [passage omitted]

Urges End to Gulf Crisis 25 Jan

LD2701105691 Tripoli JANA in English 0822 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Jan (JANA)—The leader of the revolution was interviewed live by BBC2 Friday [25 January] night.

At this interview he answered the questions put to him by this channel on the war raging in the Gulf region and on the ways conducive to solving the crisis of Kuwait peacefully.

Replying to a question on his stance vis-a-vis the military conflict in the Gulf, he said that he regarded all the warring quarters as stupid and mad. He added that he was worried lest this conflict worsen world peace. As such, he said that he did not support any quarter in this conflict maintaining that he wanted to stop this war. He said that he was against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and against the aggression launched by the international coalition against the people of Iraq.

He added that we would not send any troops to the Gulf because if troops were sent there, they would fight against Iraq to bring back Kuwait and against the international coalition stressing that if we were to support anybody, we would support Kuwait against Iraq and support Iraq against the international coalition.

Asked about the solution he would put forward to end the military operations in the Gulf, he stressed that the solution would lie in achieving a unity between Iraq and Kuwait and all the [words indistinct]

[Word indistinct] said in this case, there would not be Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt or Syria. Rather, there would be one state. This is the only positive solution to this crisis stressing the necessity of the withdrawal of the foreign troops from the region.

He maintained that this solution would be historic despite having a different reality calling for the necessity to stop the mad campaigns against Iraq and reach an Arab solution to the crisis between Kuwait and Iraq.

He said we as Arabs must find a solution to this problem without foreign intervention. The war must be stopped forthwith. This was what the American and all Western peoples wanted, he added. He pointed out that demonstrations were staged in Western cities demanding a stop to this war.

He pointed out that there existed no democracy in the U.S., Britain and all European Countries. Rather, he added, there existed dictatorships because should there be democracy peoples should be permitted to implement what they wanted. These people, he maintained now want to have this war stopped.

The leader of the revolution pointed out that we had basic policies, principles and objectives that we could not do without. We adhered to this since the outbreak of the great Al-Fatih revolution pointing out that others might have changed their policies from time to time, but we abided by our objective principles down to the present time, we, he added [word indistinct] peace and supported Arab unity opposing war.

He said that the troops stationed in the Gulf were not of the United Nations. Rather, they were foreign troops led by the U.S. They did not go there to implement the resolutions of the Security Council.

He added that behind this coalition, there existed hostile intentions against our Arab nation, not for Kuwait at all. He pointed out that Kuwait did not deserve all these raids and all this destruction. What was happening was something else, namely, an imperialist mission and a hatred against the Arabs apart from an aggressive stand towards Iraq, Arabs and Islam, not for the sake of Kuwait.

He said that should they want Kuwait, it was there. Why don't they go to it since the beginning of the last week? [sentence as received] Instead, they went to Iraq to destroy the Iraqi people and the Arab nation. They had their get-together to go to Kuwait as far as Kuwait was concerned, but the matter was something else.

Replying to a question on the launching by Iraq of missiles against the Israelis in Palestine, the leader said that he had no answer to it pointing out that he regarded Palestine as occupied by the Israelis. He added Kuwait was also occupied by Iraq, but the West was destroying Iraq.

Replying to a question whether this would mean his welcome to the attack against the Israelis by Iraq, he said that he had no further comments to what he had already said.

Replying to a question relating to his stand regarding the pouring by Iraq of large quantities of crude oil into the Gulf, he said that he had no information on this but, he added, during war, all acts against foreigners were legitimate.

Concluding the interview, the leader of the revolution, replying to a question on how far he would continue supporting the establishment of the Arab nation after this war, he said that Arab unity would be more necessary than before after this crisis.

IRNA Cites Al-Qadhdhafi on Relations With Turkey

LD2801013391 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Ankara, 27 Jan (IRNA)—Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has sharply protested to Turkey for its stance on the Persian Gulf war, warning that a possible opening of a second front against Iraq by Ankara could lead to a third world war.

In an interview with Turkish correspondents, published by the Turkish press Sunday, Al-Qahdhafi said that as Iraq faced economic sanctions for its invasion of Kuwait, "Turkey should be punished if it spreads the war."

He was quoted as saying that Turkey's position towards the Persian Gulf war has prompted Tripoli to revise its relations with Ankara.

The dailies said that the Libyan leader has expressed regret over President Turgat Ozal's stance on the U.S.-West European war against Iraq.

He said he was disappointed with the Turkish Government and thought that the time has come for the Turkish people to call for closure of American bases on their soil.

"I expected Turkey to withdraw from NATO at the outset of the war in the Persian Gulf but its policy of cooperating with the U.S.-West European axis shows that Turkey is being used as a tool by the West," Al-Qadhdhafi was quoted by the press.

He also urged the Turkish people to press for their country's withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

By having allowed American forces to use Turkish bases for attacks against neighbouring Iraq, said the Libyan leader," Ankara has made a blunder against the interests of its people."

Najibullah Supports Al-Qadhdhafi Gulf Peace Efforts

LD2701190591 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has received a message from Afghan Presidentd Najibullah concerning the current situation in the Gulf region, in which he expressed his regrets that it was not possible to avoid military confrontation in that region in spite of international efforts exerted toward that end. He pointed out that finding a peaceful solution aimed at the immediate stoppage of the confrontation and stopping the widening of the war is not yet impossible.

In his message, the Afghan president expressed his appreciation for the brother of the revolution's efforts toward ending the war and securing a political settlement for the crisis. He also called for mobilizing all efforts and resources in order to stop the military operations.

He pointed out that the immediate implementation of a cease-fire will avoid the occurrance of more human tragedies and will furnish a suitable atmosphere for political initiatives aimed at benefitting from the peaceful means and efforts.

At the end of his message, the Afghan president expressed Afghan support for the brother leader's efforts toward ending the war and giving a chance to the peaceful efforts aimed at solving this crisis.

Protest Conveyed on French Bombing of Iraq

LD2701131391 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation summoned at noon today the French ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah. He conveyed to him the amazement of the Great Jamahiriyah at the bombing of Iraq by French aircraft, as the French Government previously announced that it is committed to restricting military operations to within Kuwaiti territory.

He also told him that we were shocked, pointing out that the Great Jamahiriyah has praised—within the Arab

Maghreb Union—the French stance declaring its commitment to work only within Kuwait and not to attack Iraq.

French Reply Given

LD2801135591 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Following the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation's summoning the French ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah to express to him our shock and our great astonishment at French aircraft's attacks on targets inside Iraq and the expansion of military operations outside the Kuwaiti territories, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has received a reply from Pierre Blouin, the French ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

It says, among other things: I hope that you have followed very carefully the French military operations in the Gulf region. The French Air Force found itself unwillingly involved in hitting limited Iraqi military targets near the Kuwaiti borders which had direct relations with the military efforts aimed at freeing Kuwait.

The French aircraft's operations inside the Iraqi territories were limited to well-defined military targets; no economic or civilian targets were hit inside Iraq. French official statements, particularly the president of the republic's announcements, affirm that France is not in state of war with Iraq; its goal from such operations is to shorten the war. Moreover, given the exiguity of the Kuwaiti territory, the Iraqi forces are moving in and out of the Kuwaiti territory, a matter which makes a military confrontation inside the Iraqi territories difficult to avoid.

The ambassador pointed out that France engaged itself in this war in order to implement the UN Security Council's resolutions, to affirm international legality, and bring about a withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Furthermore, France does not want to interpret UN Security Council's resolutions in such a manner that would result in the destruction of Iraq's infrastructure.

Sudan

1,000 Volunteer To Fight Alongside Iraq

EA2701161891 Khartoum SUNA in French 0919 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jan (SUNA)—More than 1,000 union leaders have registered as volunteers for the Gulf war on Iraq's side, the secretary general of the Supreme Council of the country's Association of Unions announced on 26 January. A medical delegation will leave for Iraq within the next 72 hours to help those injured in the war. The Volunteers' Action Center is also pursuing the registration of volunteers among the workers in the country, he added.

Moreover, President al-Bashir announced on Saturday that the government would adopt additional security and defense measures to politically mobilize the people and protect the country against the dangers that are expected to result from the current events in the Gulf.

Al-Bashir Says Allies Out To 'Victimize' Iraq

EA2701111791 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has reiterated Sudan's condemnation of the destructive war in the Gulf, stressing that the arrogant alliance forces have not united for the sake of righteousness or to protect that which is right but rather they have come to victimize fraternal Iraq, pointing out that the Iraqi steadfastness has taught those fearsome people that there is a master of the universe who is above America, Israel, and their machinations and that the Islamic giant will spring up and shake the world beneath the feet of the tyrants, oppressors, and their supporters.

Lt. Gen 'Umar, at a meeting yesterday with political, economic, social, and popular leaders, explained that Sudan's position regarding the crisis remained firm and clear from the outset, stating that Sudan would never submit to anyone, would never kowtow except to God, and would never let anyone dictate his decisions to it. His excellency pointed out that the West had decided to make Islam its first target after the Iranian revolution and had plotted to strike at Iraqi power after it had emerged as an Islamic force standing in the face of Zionist expansion.

His excellency revealed that the recent Arab Summit's decision had contributed to the explosion of the situation, for it was confirmed that the decision did not represent the Arab nation. He pointed out that a book has been published recently which says that the decision which was made by the recent Arab Summit had been written in English in advance and translated into Arabic. This shows the West's interference in this decision.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Address Urges Gulf Cease-fire

LD2601145191 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Radio and television address by Tunisian President Ben Ali to Tunisian people on 26 January—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O citizens,

The destruction and devastation to which fraternal Iraq is being subjected has reached an intolerable limit. No matter what our opinion about the origin of the issue, which we expressed clearly on 11 August, we cannot in any way accept the point which has been reached. The existance and entity of Iraq, country and people, has become the target.

In the 11 August speech, we made clear our opposition to the use of force by any side in order to impose solutions. We also expressed and continue to express our belief that all issues, no matter how complicated they become, can be solved by peaceful means.

We hope that if reason is absent from one side, it should not be absent from the United Nations. The problems of the region, albeit separated in their dates and direct causes, are linked in the place and in their distant motives; and the correct and lasting solutions are the just and comprehensive ones, even if this is in accordance with a definite timetable. Therefore, we have exerted every effort until the last moment in order to avoid the forbidden war. We asked Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, and we urged the Security Council and appealed to the world conscience to announce the convening of an international peace conference during this year. Iraq did not turn this down. Room should have been made for such an initiative so that it could get its fair share of study, and sufficient time should have been provided for it and for other initiatives.

While we regret the insistence which we have noticed on letting the chances for peace slip away, we consider that it has become incumbent today, in view of the destruction to which Iraq is being subjected, to express our strong condemnation of these abominable developments which contradict all the principles of peace and human values, and the original objectives for which the United Nations was founded and the Security Council, which is supposed to spread security and peace, was built. We also believe that the punishing of the Iraqi people is a political mistake and a miscalculation. The states allied against Iraq have hastened the implementation of the Security Council resolutions before the exhaustion of all efforts. The Security Council decided that 15 January should be the start of the possible use of force in order to force Iraq to withdraw. This date, however, has become a deadline. The resolutions provided for the liberation of Kuwait, but did not provide for the destruction of Iraq.

This clearly means that the scope of the fighting—if the fighting was necessary—should not have gone beyond Kuwait's borders. However, all the allied forces are pouring their steel and fire on all of Iraq, on Basra, Baghdad, and Mosul, targetting all of its basic civilian infrastructure and all its material and human resources.

The real objectives for which the Security Council resolutions have been used have become apparent through the continuous destruction to which sister Iraq has been subjected since the dawn of 17 January. It has also become apparent since 2 August that international legitamacy is not implemented for all with the same standard and measure.

Over 20 states agreed to strike Iraq. Is this international legitimacy? This legitimacy, which nobody rushed to ensure that it is respected, except when it was connected with economic, political, and strategic interests. The real objectives which have become apparent are that nobody wants this nation to stand its ground, and that it is forbidden for the nation to acquire power or strength or to take its share of progress, science, and technology, so that it remains burdened with subordination forever in the shadow of a new long-standing international order where there is no room for it.

We feel depressed when these parties boast about dropping tens of thousands of tonnes of steel and fire every day, and with the fiercest and most destructive means, on the people of Iraq, without anybody being moved or shocked by it. Whenever Israel is the target of a fedayeen action these parties fly into a rage, and their condemnation resounds throughout the world. But the destruction of the capabilities of an entire people and attacking this people even in their places of worship is only met with silence and a [news] black-out.

Dear citizens, in the face of what the fraternal people of Iraq are being subjected to, and through every Arab national, it is our right to wonder and to ask this question:

Where is the freedom of the press in front of falsifications of facts by the press and an information blackout and its utilization. Where are these noble values and attractive mottos? Are there no limits and are they applicable to one side and not to the other, to one people and not to another, and to one man and not to another? Is this the new international order?

Citizens, ladies and gentlemen,if there is anything which justifies the amendment of conceptions and their use for the selfish interests of some states, what is a cause of anger and astonishment is this Arab and Islamic silence. Is everyone according to this logic, close aims, and interests, without any interests in the requirements of the existence of the nation, its pride, and dignity? Peoples do not die, no matter how long they have been ruled despotically. This struggling Palestinian people is stronger than before, despite the ordeal of deportation and elimination it has been facing for half a century.

We call on all Arab and Islamic leaders, to all callers for peace and peace-loving people in the world who believe in the right of peoples to security and safety, to address the UN Security Council in order to call for an end to the fighting and the implementation of international legitimacy without prejudice or shortcoming. Call for the convening of an international peace conference this year in order to end the Gulf crisis and all the issues of the Middle East, at the forefront of which is the question of the struggling Palestinian people. This issue will always remain a source of instability for the whole region as long as it is not settled through a just and durable solution which would guarantee the Palestinians their right to establish their state on their land.

Citizens, ladies and gentlemen, we express our solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people in its critical ordeal, and we are continuously following these situations. We are endeavoring assiduously with our brothers in the Arab Maghreb Union and all the other justice and peaceloving forces to put an end to this destructive war as soon as possible.

As I address my thanks and appreciation to all Tunisians, men and women, for the understanding, maturity, and civilized way in which they have expressed their solidarity with the fraternal Iraqi people, I call on them to help us in dedicating ourselves to this issue by being alert, responsible, and calm, and by taking care of the safety and interests of those residing among us, and everything that might help us in achieving the development of our country according to our ancient traditions of hospitality, and of providing the safety for which we have been known along history.

As for our development situation and the negative repercussions which will stem from these developments, I call anew on all Tunisians, men and women, to dedicate themselves to serious work and to double their efforts, because, as we have seen, the only way to safety and dignity is self-reliance, and independence and sovereignty are built on establishing our own abilities.

God said: The believers are but a single brotherhood: So make peace and reconciliation between your two brothers; and fear God, that ye may receive mercy. God has spoken the truth.

Peace and God's mercy be on you.

Bahrain

Official on Measures To Combat Oil Spill

NC2801092091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 28 Jan (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has taken urgent measures to deal with any eventuality that may result from the oil slick off the Saudi and Kuwaiti coast, which was caused when the Iraqi regime pumped oil into Arabian Gulf waters.

Engineer Jamil al-'Alawi, deputy under secretary of the Ministry of Public Works, Electricity, and Water in charge of water and electricity affairs, said a rubber barrier had been erected to check the oil slick, which could pose a threat to the two desalination plants in Sutrah and al-Dawr.

He added that another measure can be taken, that of installing several floating pumps which will pump the oil from the surface of the sea into reservoirs that will be emptied later.

Eng. al-'Alawi said that a decision to shut down the two plants depends on the density and the fluidity of the oil and on how much it will spread in Gulf waters, and will come after all other preventive measures are exhausted.

He pointed out that in case all other measures are exhausted, the ministry will then ration water in Bahrain and will basically depend on groundwater.

Meanwhile, 'Abd-al-Latif Bujayri, director of water sources at the Ministry of Trade and Agriculture, has stated that the oil slick located off the northern part of the Gulf will not affect groundwater in Bahrain, and that it will evidently pose a threat to marine ecology, the coastline, and bird life.

He explained that there is no way for the oil slick to reach the groundwater on which the Abu-Jarjur desalination plant depends.

Bujayri said that the Abu-Jarjur plant produces 9 million gallons daily. He asserted that Bahrain's water needs can be met by the Abu-Jarjur plant for some time, as the plant's daily average production ranges between 9 to 10 million gallons. The remaining 188 million gallons needed can be obtained from the pumping stations of the groundwaters.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister: No Pre-Withdrawal Cease-Fire

LD2501192391 London KUNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] In a press interview published here today, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahamd al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, stressed there can never be a truce or cease-fire in the war to liberate Kuwait before a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy there.

In an interview with SAWT AL-KUWAIT AL-DAWLI Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad pointed out that the Kuwaiti rejection of the ideas and initiatives which have been put forward for a cease-fire in the war to liberate Kuwait stems from the fact that the Iraqi regime intransigently rejected dozens of initiatives before the declaration of war, an attitude which proved that regime is insisting on its aggression and disregarding all the peaceful tendencies of the countries of the world and international organizations.

He stressed that "the legitimate Kuwaiti leadership and people can never think of or believe in the ideas or solutions that some sides—to which we are grateful—have presented, unless these are preceded by an actual implementation on the part of the Iraqi regime of the resolutions adopted unanimously by the international community, which do not need any further interpretation."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that any withdrawal should be unconditional in order to emphasize the freedom and sovereignty of the Kuwaiti leadership and people, "a freedom and sovereignty which we practiced before and after 2 August, in spite of all the crises and disasters inflicted on us."

He pointed out: "There is no tragedy now which is greater than the tragedy of the Kuwaiti people. If it is true that the Iraqi regime and its leader Saddam Husayn think of the destinies and situations of peoples, then we would never have suffered what we have suffered."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said he wished that those who hastened to present ideas and solutions "had addressed these ideas to the Iraqi regime first and proved to us clearly that the occupation of our country has ended".

He said: "The initiatives should not be presented to us, because we are the victims. They should be presented to the aggressors, who should remove the results of their aggression."

Information Minister Blames Iraq for Oil Spill

LD2501222991 London KUNA in Arabic 2118 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 25 Jan (KUNA)—Kuwait strongly condemned tonight the pollution of the environment caused by Iraq by pumping huge quantities of crude oil from the Kuwaiti harbour of al-Ahmadi into the Arab Gulf waters.

Dr Badr al-Ya'qub, minister of information and minister of state for the affairs of the Kuwaiti National Council, described this action as a crime. Dr. al-Ya'qub held Iraq fully responsible for this action that will lead to an environmental disaster. [passage omitted]

Air Force Attacks Iraqi Positions in Kuwait

LD2501185891 London KUNA in Arabic 1804 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 25 Jan (KUNA)—A number of Kuwaiti Air Force planes carried out an air raid on several positions of the Iraqi invading forces inside Kuwait today.

[Defense Minister] Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad told KUNA today: "Our brave eagles returned to their bases safely after completing their combat missions" aiming at liberating Kuwait from the claws of Iraqi invasion.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd, Syria's Al-Asad Discuss Crisis, Ties

LD2701230291 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] A telephone contact was made yesterday, Sunday, between King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

SPA learned that during the telephone contact, an exchange of views took place concerning current developments in the Arab Gulf crisis and other Arab issues of common interest.

The two great leaders also discussed matters affecting the interests of the two countries and fraternal peoples.

Fahd Assures Mubarak Matters on 'Right Course'

LD2701001291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2353 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh 26 Jan (SPA)—A telephone conversation took place today between King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the guardian of the two holy mosques, and his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During the telephone call, they reviewed the current events in the Arab Gulf region and other issues of common interest.

King Fahd assured His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak that all matters, generally speaking, are on the right course, thanks to God's assistance and guidance.

King Fahd Receives Pakistan Prime Minister

LD2701182491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1747 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 27 January (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, received Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and members of his delegation at his office at Al-Yamamah Palace today. [passage omitted]

Official Outlines Measures To Stop Oil Spill

LD2801003791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2303 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 27 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, councellor at the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, said that the Ministry, in cooperation with the Saudi company Aramco, is making every effort to deal with the oil slick resulting from the Iraqi aggressor pumping huge quantities of oil from the Kuwaiti oilfields in al-Ahmadi.

At a meeting with newsmen in the information centre in Riyadh, he said that measures were being taken and efforts made to prevent the oil slick from moving in to the rest of the Arab Gulf. He added: Other measures are technical, especially concerning the prevention of fire and taking chemical measures to prevent the spreading of the slick.

His highness stressed that there were also efforts to preserve the facilities that use sea water for the purpose of refrigeration and desalination. He said: Measures are in fact being taken, and this is why these facilities will not be affected, God willing.

He said that there was a team making studies and taking measures to tackle the oil slick. He said: Experts from the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals are analyzing samples similar to the oil slick, and ways of dealing with it in order to take the most appropriate and efficient measures to eliminate the oil slick and its effects.

His Royal Highness Prince Abd-al-'Aziz-Bin-Salman Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz expressed his conviction that this problem will, God willing, be overcome without affecting the Kingdom's production of oil or export capabilities. He said: "We are confident in our preventive measures".

Regarding the environmental effects of the oil slick, he said: "We actually fear that it will have grave consequences".

His highness pointed out that the oil slick came as a result of pumping large quantities of Kuwaiti oil at al-Ahmadi by the Iraqi aggressor. He noted that the oil slick originates at the oil terminal pumps and some oil tankers at al-Ahmadi port.

He said: "The oil slick began to spread last Thursday evening and has moved eastward in the Gulf due to the water currents and wind effects". He added that today an aircraft flew in an attempt to take some photos, however, it failed due to bad weather. He pointed out that the satellite photographs of the oil slick also were not clear. [passage omitted]

Al-Ahmadi Governor Condemns Saddam on Oil Spill

LD2701100791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0627 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Dhahran, 27 Jan, SPA—Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim, governor of al-Ahmadi, condemned terrorist acts by the tyrant of Baghdad, such as launching Iraqi missiles at civilian targets in Riyadh and the Eastern region.

In a news conference held yesterday, he said the pumping of oil into Gulf waters by the Baghdad regime is clear evidence of this regime's continuing engagement in terrorist acts, through which it aims to hamper navigation and gravely pollute water and the environment.

The governor of al-Ahmadi indicated that pumping oil into the Arabian Gulf will not obstruct the multinational forces' naval landing, God willing, because these forces have other plans for this mission.

He stated that Kuwaiti citizens were subjected to tremendous suffering and losses, such as imprisonment, torture, the imposition of curfews, the prevention of visits among families and relatives, and the destitution of Kuwaiti families in an attempt by the Baghdad regime, an outlaw against international consensus, to obliterate the Kuwaiti identity.

Regarding the plan to rebuild Kuwait following its liberation, God willing, Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim said: "The plan will be implemented in the best possible way." He highlighted a degree of difficulty in this connection because everything inside Kuwait has been destroyed or stolen by the invading Iraqi forces.

As for the reentry of Kuwaitis into Kuwait following its liberation, the governor said: "Each citizen has been allocated an identity card, and only those who carry this card will be able to enter Kuwait."

Water Minister Says Protective Measures Taken

LD2601235591 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Hasan al-Shaykh, agriculture and water minister and chairman of the board of directors of the General Institute for Desalinating Water, said all necessary technical measures and procedures for protecting the deslination of water from the oil leakage in the Arabian Gulf have been adopted. In a statement to SPA, he added that all the desalination stations have been supplied with barriers which will stop all the flaws. Further, the level of water intake which feeds the desalination centers was designed to be lower than sea level by no less than five meters, which makes it safe from such oils and all other natural contaminants. He also pointed out that the necessary measures to secure the safety of the fish in the local markets from any negative effects were adopted. Specimens from these fish are subject to continuous laboratory tests to secure their safety. He concluded his statement by praying to God to spare our dear country from every harm and to protect if from every evil.

Sharon Said in Saudi Arabia Planning Attack

NC2701030291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Jan 91 p 20

[Text] Amman—Confirmed information reaching a diplomatic mission in Amman from its embassy in the Gulf region says that Ari'el Sharon, former Israeli defense minister and construction and housing minister in the present government; General Yisra'el Tal, expert on armored warfare; and General Aharon Yariv [name as published] are now in the operations room in the eastern region of Saudi Arabia coordinating ground attack plans for the American forces against the Iraqi forces. These three have experience in desert warfare.

This news has not been confirmed by any other source. It is known, however, that Israel has been pressuring the United States for some time to allow it to play a role, any role, in attacking Iraq in order to justify its silence over the Iraqi missile attacks to Israeli public opinion.

Officials' Presence Denied

LD2701003291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2344 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Jan (SPA)—An authoritative source has denied allegations of the Jordanian AL-DUSTUR published today, Saturday, regarding the presence of some Israeli military officials in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to SPA, the official said: "The aims behind publishing such reports are known and clear and cannot fool the wise men of this nation. We cannot but deny this report on the whole and in parts."

Israeli Planes Arrival Denied

LD2701003891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2345 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Jan (SPA)—A responsible source has denied Iraqi television allegations claiming the arrival of 20 Israeli military aircraft to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to SPA, the source stressed that this allegation does not go beyond the framework of fabrications emanating from the Iraqi media with the aim of covering up the crimes Iraq is still committing against the nations and states that have condemned these crimes and asked Iraq to return to the course of justice and right.

The responsible source emphasized that this news item, which no reasonable person would accept, has no foundation in truth.

Joint Forces Command Communiques Review Events

No. 8 Issued 25 Jan

LD2501191191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Jan (SPA)—Victory comes only from dear and wise God. [Koran]

Military Communique Number 8 issued by the command of the joint forces and the theatre of operations for the ninth day of Desert Storm, 25 January 1991:

Regarding military operations on land, the aggressor continues to use intermittent firing against the various border positions. This has not caused any human or material damage, and the aggressor's source of fire was silenced by the joint forces' artillery and air forces. Six Iraqi soldiers surrendered at one of the centers of the Saudi Border Guard yesterday evening.

The joint air forces have carried out 17,000 sorties since the start of the operations, of which our air force carried out 1,138 sorties. Two sea mines were discovered in the Arab Gulf waters in the last 24 hours. An oil slick has formed opposite the [Kuwaiti] port of al-Ahmadi whose estimated length is more than 15 km near a pumping pipe that extends from the shore. Five oil tankers are near this slick.

At about 1800 on Thursday 24 January 1991, a helicopter of one of the U.S. warships attacked two Iraqi minesweepers. As a result, the two minesweepers were sunk and eleven sailors from each were taken prisoner.

While returning, the helicopter came under hostile fire from the island of Qaruh. An engagement resulted, in which three Iraqis were killed and 25 others were taken prisoner. The prisoners, numbering 47, were evacuated to a friendly ship.

No. 9 Issued 26 Jan

LD2601195291 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Military communique No. 9 issued by the command of the joint forces and the theater of operations for 26 January]

[Text] Military ground operations, including artillery and missile exchanges at a number of border points, have continued. Our artillery and the joint air forces were able to silence the source of the enemy's fire.

Twelve Iraqi soldiers have sought refuge in Saudi Arabia in the last 24 hours, including two with the rank of lieutanent.

The joint air forces have carried out 20,000 sorties since the beginning of the Desert Storm operations, 1,282 of which have been carried out by our own air forces. Nine undersea mines have been discovered in the last 48 hours, five of which have been blown up—two by the Saudi royal naval forces and three by the U.S. Navy.

At 2223 yesterday, 25 January, the aggressor launched two Scud missiles toward Riyadh city; they were detected, intercepted, and blown up in midair. Part of one missile, however, landed on a populated district of Riyadh. As a result, one Saudi citizen was killed and 30 persons of different nationalities were slightly injured.

This morning, 26 January, at 0329, the aggressor launched a Scud missile toward the eastern region; the missile was detected, intercepted, and successfully blown up.

This afternoon at 1330 the sea washed a mine ashore near an oil platform on the eastern coast. The mine was blown up; no one was harmed, praise be to God. Another mine has been discovered and work is in progress to blow it up.

No. 10 Issued 27 Jan

LD2701185191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Military communique No. 10 issued by the command of the joint forces and operations theater for 27 January]

[Text] The U.S. Air Force yesterday in the evening, 11 Rajab [26 January], shot down three hostile MIG-23 aircraft over an air base in western Iraq. Four other aircraft of the same model were shot down at 0915 [0615 GMT] today near Al Ja'arah.

The joint air forces have carried out 22,528 sorties since the beginning of Operation Desert Storm. Our air force carried out 1,431 sorties. The Bahraini Air force carried out 20 sorties. The Kuwaiti Air force carried out 121 sorties. The Qatari Air force carried out eight sorties.

During the past 24 hours, four maritime mines were discovered, two of which were destroyed—one by the removal unit of the Saudi Royal Navy and the other by the removal unit of the U.S. Navy. Work is still continuing to destroy the other two mines.

At 2130 [1830 GMT] yesterday, saturday, an enemy ship near Bubiyan Island in the northern part of the Arabian Gulf was destroyed. Another enemy ship was destroyed at 0400 [0100 GMT] today at dawn in the Gulf of Kuwait.

At 2321 [2021 GMT] yesterday, saturday 11 Rajab, the enemy fired a Scud missile toward Riyadh. The missile was detected and destroyed, and no losses resulted, praise be to God.

French Military Reinforcements Arrive in Yanbu'

NC2601081291 Paris AFP in English 0748 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Yanbu', Saudi Arabia, Jan 26 (AFP)—French military reinforcements were sent to the Gulf Saturday morning on board two vessels that arrived at the Saudi port of Yanbu' al-Bahr, on the Red Sea.

The two ships were the Ile de la Reunion carrying transportation equipment and Ville de Chartres, with 500 more French troops on board to back up the French part of the anti-Iraq coalition, Operation Daguet.

A 100-bed hospital ship, La Rance, was due to arrive later in the morning at Yanbu', where it will remain anchored until the war is ended.

A second French hospital ship, La Foudre, is scheduled to arrive at Yanbu' on February 1.

Further on Downing of Iraqi Jets 24 Jan

LD2501192491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Statement by Unidentified Saudi Officer in Riyadh on 25 January on downing of Iraqi aircraft on 24 January—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] The early warning means had observed air activity in southern Iraq. This activity continued until a group of six to eight aircraft were observed flying at low altitude. These aircraft headed from the north to the south until they crossed the middle of sister Kuwait's coastal boundaries. The first group of aircraft changed their direction from the south to the north, while the second group continued to fly along the eastern coast. AWACS observed these two aircraft, which were flying low and at speed of almost 600 knots. Two F15's, out of four F15 aircraft that were on patrol in their allocated region, were directed [toward the targets]. They intercepted the two [Mirage] F1's and identified them as hostile. The first pilot, who is the leader of the formation, engaged the two aircraft. He destroyed the first, and when he tried to turn to the other one he was able to destroy it as well, while his colleague, the other pilot, was providing support should the need have arisen. This took place about 35-40 miles to the south of al-Khafji, about five miles from the [Saudi] eastern coast. Our analysis, from the expected ammunitions of these two aircraft and from the place of their fall, is that they were most likely heading for Arab targets. But thanks to God, the two aircraft were destroyed. [passage omitted]

Suburban Scud Attack Kills One, Injures 30

LD2601000491 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2323 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Statement by 'responsible source' at Interior Ministry in Riyadh on 25 January—read by announcer]

[Text] After blowing up one of the two missiles fired by the Iraqi aggressors at 2228 [1928 GMT] which precedes Saturday, 11 Rajab 1411 A.H. [26 Jan 1991], when a Patriot antimissile rocket collided with the Iraqi Scud missile over one of the civilian suburbs, the body and shrapnel from the rocket and missile fell after they exploded on an inhabited building.

This resulted in the following:

1) A Saudi citizen died.

2) 19 Saudi citizens were injured. Their injuries varied between broken bones and slight wounds.

3) 11 brother residents [non-Saudis] suffered slight injuries. They are of the following nationalities: five Egyptians; two Jordanians; one Sudanese woman, and three persons from Bangladesh. They were all transported immediately to the hospitals where first aid was administered to them, and they all are under medical care.

F1 Aircraft Attack Iraqi, Kuwaiti Targets

LD2601114591 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The allied forces undoubtedly believe there is no longer any danger of confusion. For the first time since the beginning of the war, France has engaged Mirage F1 CR aircraft, in two air raids carried out against Kuwait and Iraq this morning.

The Iraqis also possess this type of aircraft, so there was no question of using the French aircraft in the beginning, as they have the same radar signature. The two raids took place between 0830 and 0900. All aircraft returned safely to base. The first raid over Iraq was aimed at Saddam Husayn's Republican Guards and the second at mechanized units in Southern Kuwait. Alongside the F1 CR's there were also Jaguar planes.

The operation was supported by allied aircraft.

Eastern Regions Remain Under Alert

LD2601204591 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2027 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brothers: The danger continues in the eastern region, but the danger in Riyadh has ended, thanks be to God. Brothers in the eastern region should remain in the shelters and brother drivers must keep calm. We pray to God Almighty to save our country of all evils.

Brother citizen: The civil defense reminds you that your presence at the sites of incidents resulting from air strikes or near them could impede the work of the security men and the concerned quarters and prevent them from performing their duties and tasks with the required speed. Your presence also poses a threat to you. Cooperate with us by keeping away from these places. Follow the instructions issued via the information media. We pray to God to save all of us.

Spokesman Reviews 'Successful' Air Operations

LD2601232291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2116 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Jan (SPA)—Colonel Ahmad Muhammad al-Ruby'an, spokesman for the Joint Forces and the theater of Operations, has pointed out that the air operations of the joint forces have been at least as successful as envisioned in the plans, if not more so, praise be to God.

At a meeting with reporters at the information center in Riyadh this evening, he stated: "As has been pointed out in previous briefings and communiques by various participants in the Desert Storm operation, the air campaign was aimed at cutting off communication lines, roads, airports, ammunition dumps, and so on."

Concerning the measures that have been taken so far to prevent the pollution of the Arabian Gulf waters with the Kuwaiti oil spilled by Saddam, he pointed out that his royal highness the commander of the Joint Forces and the theater of operations had conferred yesterday with His Excellency the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, as well as with a number of experts in this field; they have taken and will be taking suitable measures, he said. He added: "I cannot say what measures will be taken."

Replying to a question on the effect to military operations of the oil slick in the Arabian Gulf, Col. al-Ruby'an said: "It was pointed out yesterday that military operations will not be affected. If there is any effect, however, it will be a limited one." He added: "Undoubtedly the military men will have contingency plans for such an eventuality; I am sure everything is planned for. If there is any effect, however, the necessary measures will be taken to reduce it, God willing."

Asked if the weather conditions affect the performance of the Patriot missiles, the spokesman said: "The general information I have is that all modern weapons are developed in such a way as not to be affected by weather or at least only in an extremely limited way."

He added: "The designers and manufacturers of missiles always take into consideration the fact that these weapons may be used in conditions which might not be ideal."

Asked what effect the oil spill in the Arab Gulf will have on the world, as its effect has been described as universal, Staff Col. al-Ruby'an replied that the spill will harm marine life, weather, and water." He added: "These are things the whole world shares."

He stressed that the Iraqi agaressor's spilling of oil in the Arab Gulf waters constitutes a terrorist and inhumane act which will harm the whole world.

Military Sources Report Iraqi Fighters Defect

LD1701125891 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan. 17, IRNA—Two Iraqi fighter planes have fled to Saudi Arabia and their pilots have sought asylum, the QATARI NEWS AGENCY reported Thursday morning quoting Saudi Arabian military sources.

Soldiers in Saudi Arabia Urged To Join Iraqis

NC2501233291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2243 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk carried within the "Voice of Arab Awakening" feature]

[Text] Brother Arab officer and soldier in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], Kuwait has been part of Iraq since the latter has existed. British colonialism is the one that separated Kuwait from Iraq and installed the Al-Sabah family as its rulers. Iraq has now regained Kuwait. Yes, Iraq regained Kuwait, and no one, no matter who he is, can take it from Iraq again. The time for such a thing will not return and the al-Sabah family have been dispatched to hell.

Iraq has the faith, determination, and power to defeat all the troops that are massed around it.

O Arab officer and soldier, by God, tell me whether you are not pleased to have brothers who enjoy such strength and such determination? Do you not feel proud to see us stand up against all the Arabs' enemies, not scared or frightened? Are you not proud that the Arabs' enemies fear us and think twice before dealing with us? Then why do you not join us? We now represent the Arabs' awakening from the ocean to the Gulf. Do not stand in the dark side of the picture.

United Arab Emirates

Source Says 'No Risk' to Dubayy From Oil Slick

NC2701005891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 26 Jan (WAKH)—A responsible source at Dubayy Water Board in the United Arab Emirates has said that the oil slick reported in the northern area of the Gulf by various news media is a great distance away from the water sources of the Dubayy desalination station. The source added that there is no risk from this spill, particularly since the competent and local authorities have all the sophisticated technical equipment to deal with such an emergency. [passage omitted]

Press, Industry Review Fight Against Oil Spill

NC2801164291 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 28 (WAKH)—The oil slick now advancing down the Gulf from occupied Kuwait has triggered a wide-scale rush towards anti-pollution measures in the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

Press reports today quoted UAE officials as saying that they have taken the necessary precautions and made contingeny plans to fight the threatening oil spill started by Iraq.

One report carried by the daily 'GULF NEWS' said the Ministry of Water and Electricity is planning to set up booms on the country's waters to protect desalination plants from pollution in case the slick reaches the UAE.

"Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Department (WED) has the necessary equipment to protect drinking water from oil contamination, and if more technical aid was needed it could be obtained from another country," a UAE official told the paper.

Sa'id 'Atiq, assistant undersecretary of the Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Department said "the WED has a warning system to alert the authorities when the slick approaches the Abu Dhabi shores."

Meanwhile, local industry sources say the oil spill could pose some long-term hazards to the UAE.

Another source, an expert attached to a Dubai-based petroleum distribution company, expressed concern about the possible damage that would be done to the country's coastline and urged that international assistance be sought.

The oil spill is still gushing out into the Gulf. It is considered to be 15 times worse than the horrific Exxon Valdez oil spill.

"This incident is certainly a disaster for the Gulf," said the source at the regional company.

The oil, which is reported to be several inches thick in Saudi Arabia, may take weeks to reach the UAE.

Volunteers, Retired Officers Called for Duty

NC2701094891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Jan (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] Armed Forces General Command, the Moral Guidance Department, has decided to call up the following categories of volunteers:

1. All volunteers who are not students or employees.
2. Fifty percent of the volunteers who are employees of state ministries and institutions and who have finished their training, provided that they are trained by the institutions for which they work.
3. All retired noncommissioned officers and privates.

In its statement today, the General Command said that the call-up of those volunteers is in line with the plan put forward to call up more volunteers. The people in the designated categories should come to the recruitment office in Abu Dhabi on 29 and 30 January.

Further on Statement

NC2701160291 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 27 (WAKH)—The UAE Armed Forces today summoned more volunteers who have received military training in adition to retired officers and soldiers.

A statement by the General Command of the Armed Forces—Moral Guidance—said those included all volunteers who are not students or employees and 50 percent of government employees.

It said those involved should report to al-Nahyan camp in Abu Dhabi on January 29.

Yemen

1 Million Sign Up To Fight Alongside Iraq

AB2601214091 Paris AFP in English 2008 GMT 26 jan 91

[Text] Aden, Jan 26 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of Yemenis have signed up to fight alongside Iraq in the Gulf war, informed political sources said here Saturday. The Popular Committee of Support for Iraq and the Arab Nation said that one million Yemeni nationals have offered to take up arms against the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf.

Recruitment centers have flourished in Yemen since the Gulf crisis erupted following Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and the buildup of foreign troops in the region. There have been no official estimates of how many people have volunteered to fight in the Gulf war.

Yemeni political parties, including the ones that have emerged after the reunification of South and North Yemen in May, have urged the country's 12 million people to rally around Iraq. The Islamic Yemeni Assembly for Reform recently called for a jihad (holy war) against the U.S.-led coalition saying that Iraq was confronting the "West's new crusaders." The party also urged the faithful to mobilise against what it said was the "liquidation of the Iraqi people."

A group of doctors and chemists meanwhile planned to leave for Iraq on a humanitarian mission, the army newspaper SEPTEMBER 26 reported Saturday. The association of Yemeni doctors and chemists also decided to give a day's earnings to the Iraqi war effort.

Yemen has consistently supported Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait. On Wednesday, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih denounced what he described as a "U.S. plot" against Iraq and said the war "is not aimed at solving the Kuwaiti problem, but at destroying Iraq."

Salih Receives Sudanese RCC Member, Message

EA2601220091 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] This morning in his office Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, met Brother Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] of the fraternal Republic of Sudan, who conveyed to the brother president a message from his Sudanese brother, Sudanese President Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, in connection with the current developments in the region and consultation and coordination between the countries concerning these developments, in addition to relations between the two fraternal countries. The brother president gave him a reply for his brother Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir. Brother Brigadier Salih Ubayd Ahmad, deputy premier for defense and security affairs, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, the foreign minister, also attended the meeting. Brother Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah arrived in Sanaa this morning.

Jurist Union Secretary on Visit, To Discuss War

EA2301153191 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Today Brother Shabib al-Maliki, secretary general of the Union of Arab Jurists, has arrived in Sanaa on a visit to our country during which he will meet a number of brother officials in the government and representatives of Yemeni political and popular organizations. In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', Brother al-Maliki said that his meetings aim at exchanging views on ways of ensuring support for fraternal Iraq in its resistance to the American-Atlantic aggression, and the allied states. He stressed that Iraq with its people and valiant army under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn was resisting with rare courage this criminal aggression in which Israel is actually taking part. The secretary general of the union of Arab jurists said that the last few days had shown that the forces of aggression against Iraq had suffered heavy losses.

Saddam Chairs RCC Meeting; Jasim Attends

NC2601173191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn chaired a Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] meeting. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister, attended.

Rules Dead Fedayeen 'Martyrs'

NC2601195691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Decision issued by the Revolution Command Council, dated 8 Rajab, 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 25 January 1991.

Pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC decides the folowing:

1. Every Iraqi, Arab, or Muslim who is martyred as a result of his participating in fedayeen operations against the countries participating in the barbaric aggression against great Iraq, or against these countries' interests, or their allies in the mother of battles shall be considered as a martyr of the mother of battles and shall enjoy the same rights.

2. The provisions of Paragraph 1 of this decision shall apply to every fedayeen from the various countries in the world if he is martyred as a result of his carrying out fedayeen missions against the countries of the aggression.

3. This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be effective as of 16 January 1991.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

'Aziz Details 'Crimes' in Letter to UN Head

NC2701104891 Baghdad Radio of the Mother of Battles Network in Arabic 0913 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency: Since the imperialist American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression on our country started at 0230 on 17 January, the aggressive forces have been committing ugly and deliberate crimes against the Iraqi citizens and the economic, educational, scientific, and religious properties of our great people who have contributed greatly to civilization.

We have always drawn your attention to and explained to you clearly and and in detail—during our meeting in Amman on 31 August 1990, and during your visit to Baghdad on 11-12 January 1991—that the essential fact behind the events before and after 2 August 1990 is that the imperialist American-Atlantic-Zionist alliance and its traitor followers among the regimes in the region, have targeted and continue to target the destruction of aspiring Iraq, which follows a free and independent course and categorically rejects Zionist and imperialist hegemony in the region and its resources.

All that has happened comes within the framework of this scheme that goes against the aspirations of the people for freedom, sovereignty, independence, and equal relations. The United Nations is believed to have been established for, to realize, and to defend these principles.

In this letter, I will provide you with documentation of some of the aggressive, indiscriminate, and deliberate raids by the forces of the criminal imperialist Zionist alliance in the name of the United Nations on civilian, economic, humanitarian, health, educational, and religious targets, and on the citizens and their homes throughout Iraq. These raids are irrefutable evidence that the governments of this alliance intend merely to take revenge on the valiant Iraqi people and their struggling leadership as a result of their confrontation of the imperialist objectives of these governments.

It is truly a disgrace for the international organization that such deliberate crimes be committed under the veil of the resolutions issued by the Security Council, the last one being Resolution 678, which the United States passed by using pressure, blackmail, and bribery. The facts about how member-countries in the Council and officials from these countries pocketed these bribes are common knowledge.

Hundreds of millions of people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, who have suffered the oppression and crimes of the old colonialists and new imperialists, today believe that the so-called new world order, which the arrogant old colonialists and new imperialists are talking about, is an oppressive age of terror and threats against the nations aspiring for freedom and independence and struggling for equal relations.

Since the balancing role the Soviet Union played before is now restricted, the road is wide open to the arrogant old colonialists and new imperialists to impose hegemony and terrorism once again not merely through newly invented means, as is known, but also through old methods such as aggression and outright military occupation.

The novelty of this situation is that this colonialism, prevalent throughout past ages, has this time been used under the veil of unfair resolutions fabricated in the name of the United Nations and attained by the governments of the imperialist and colonialist alliance through pressure, terrorism, blackmail, and bribery.

The countries that approved these resolutions did so for the reasons above; and you personally bear the responsibility before history and humanity for these ugly crimes being committed against the free and mujahid people of Iraq.

At the end of his letter, the foreign minister provided a list detailing the facts of the aggression's targeting of civilian, educational, and religious centers, and economic property. He also condemned the acts of the American-Zionist-Atlantic alliance against the mujahid Iraqi people.

Reportage on Capture, Detention of Allied POWs

UK Pilot Reported Captured

NC2501192591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1916 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA)—A number of citizens in al-Zubayr District in the brave al-Basrah Governorate have captured one of the British pilots whose aircraft was shot down by the ground defense men.

The British pilot attacked residential areas in the district. The citizens have handed the pilot over to the official authorities.

POWs Said Held at 'Targeted' Sites

NC2501215791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1617 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] [passage indistinct] and Iraq's economic facilities. They cannot use their attacks on a baby milk factory as an example, because they hold Iraq and those in it cheap. What an embarrassment. They make their claims regarding laws and agreements on the treatment of POWs out of concern for their tools of aggression who have shelled residential areas where there are no guns, tanks, or fighter planes.

At the same time, they are determined to continue their aggression against Iraq. They send more of their fighter planes to strike the pillars of its economy. Prior to that, they were determined to impose their illegal economic measures on its entire population. They continue their double standard policy. They legalize what God, principles, and heavenly and humanitarian doctrines have banned, and they ban what God has made lawful, out of their belief that they alone have the right to legalize or ban as they please, since they alone have the power and can impose hegemony and whatever they please over the peoples of this earth.

If they think of themselves in this way, then Iraq tells them resoundingly: We did not attack you. We did not send our troops from afar to besiege you. We did not attack any of you. You are the ones who have done this to us. You are the ones who have committed crimes against our people and nation. You are the ones who stole the rights of the Arabs and the Muslims to their resources and who desecrated the holy shrines of the 1 billion Muslims in Mecca, the tomb of the Prophet—God's peace and blessings be upon him—and in holy Jerusalem.

Your prisoners will not be without responsibility for all of this. They will not be treated in violation of the (Geneva?) agreements by us. They will merely be located at our installations that are targeted by the aggression you are carrying out against us. Their lives are no less valuable than the lives of the sons of great Iraq. If Iraq wished to leave them in the hands of its proud sons—those sons who love their homeland and who rally round their brave leader Saddam Husayn—they would have ripped these captured pilots to pieces, as they will tear your corpses apart in the battle fronts, shatter your heads, and send them to the [words indistinct], or leave them in the desert to be buried in its hot sands.

Ministry Condemns UK's Detention of Students

NC2601223491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2112 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry made the following statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

The Iraqi Government has learned with extreme astonishment and condemnation the news of the detention, which is contrary to international charters, of 33 Iraqi students at various British universities, as prisoners of war, alleging that these students are Iraqi Armed Forces personnel.

The Iraqi Government, while strongly condemning this cowardly British behavior against a group of students, believes that this act reflects the vicious, colonialist malice that the official British quarters still harbors against Iraq and its people.

The British Home Office, which announced the news of the detentions, gave no evidence that these students had carried out any action to (?justify) the measure taken against them by the British authorities.

The spokesman emphasized that such behavior gives further proof of the rejection by the governments of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist alliance, in which Britain is a party, of international norms and values to achieve their evil objectives using all cowardly and bestial means.

The Iraqi Government holds the British Government fully responsible for the safety of the detained students and reaffirms that such provocative methods will not succeed in breaking the determination of Iraq to defend itself against the (?aggression).

Statements, Communiques Outline Situation, Views

Communique Issued 25 Jan

NC2501181991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Communique No. 21 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. It is Iraq, the model country in building and the model country in challenge and sacrifice. It is Iraq, which adheres to the principles and values, which insists on liberty and right, and which does not care about blame when it seeks to vindicate right. It is Iraq, which wrested its land by the force of right and regained its wealth which was squandered at the hands of agents and the corrupt. It is Iraq, which struggles for the sake of the Arabs and their Ka'bah and the tomb of their prophet, God's blessings and peace be upon him, and which struggles for the sake of Palestine and its holy Jerusalem. It is Iraq, which protects its land with the sacrifice of its sons, which endeavors to make its people happy, which now tears apart the aggression of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic barbarism, and which is full of the great resources that will blow away the enemies, shatter their hopes, and drive them back from the homeland in failure and shame, God willing.

Following are the details of the enemy aggressions and our sons' heroic activities to repel aggression:
1. The enemy made 72 sorties and fired a number of missiles at our valiant units in the operation sectors and at the populated areas in our beloved country.
2. With a spirit of determination and sacrifice, our air and ground defenses replied to the attacks of the unjust enemy and succeeded with God's help and the enthusiastic determination of the men and their courage in shooting down 10 air targets, both planes and missiles.

Iraq's victory is a tangible reality. Failure and shame now shadow the gathering of the aggressors. Forge ahead, O fighters of our Armed Forces and our great people. God will burn them and guide us on the path of the glorious struggle.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 8 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 25 January 1991.

Attacks on Israel Detailed

NC2501183291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1729 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Comunique No. 22 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 25 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [words indistinct] Glorious Iraqis, you know that treacherous Zionism is behind every unjust conspiracy or aggression against Iraq and the Arabs. The present action against Iraq and the aggression against it by the United States, its allies, and its slaves in the region would not have taken place had it not been for the panic that has prevailed in the Zionist entity from the moment this entity sensed [words indistinct] Iraq's power [words indistinct]. They massed their troops and carried out aggression because Zionism realizes that Iraq's might enhances the force of the mujahid Palestinian people and is a tool for the complete liberation of the occupied soil.

This is in reply to those who stand behind the aggression and encourage it and who directly participate in it with military, political, and media efforts. With a spirit of determination and sacrifice, our mighty missile force carried out the following blows against the (?Zionist entity):
1. A powerful missile blow dealt to the Zionists in their capital, Tel Aviv.
2. A second missile blow also dealt to Tel Aviv.
3. A missile blow dealt to the occupied Haifa port.
4. A third missile blow also dealt to Tel Aviv.

After carrying out these duties, our missile launchers were safely returned to base, thanks be to God.

Let the rogues [words indistinct] and for our heroic missile force all thanks and praise. We thank God for [word indistinct].

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 8 Rajab, corresponding to 25 January

Strikes at Saudi Arabia Claimed

NC2601074891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0704 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Communique No. 23 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to God, who supports right over wrong. Thanks be to Him, who provides the believers with the means of strength, protects them from aggression, returns evil to its sources, and punishes the evildoers. His promise is the correct one, even if this is not to the liking of the atheists.

Brothers, we warned the agents against bringing in foreign armies and against letting the enemies' armies desecrate the Muslim holy places and commit aggression against free and faithful Iraq, the shield and strong citadel of the Arabs. These agents, who have lost their minds and consciences, thought they would be safe from the war that they had urged, the war they have provided for, and the war in which they are participating, using Arab wealth and Arab lands against Iraq and its struggling people. Today, the agents and their masters, the Zionists, have realized that they are not beyond the reach of Iraqi anger, legitimate revenge, and successive blows on their empty heads.

The following is the outcome of our operations and the enemy's attacks:
1. Before midnight last night, with God's help, a violent missile strike was directed at the city of Riyadh, capital of the corrupt Saudi rulers.
2. At dawn today, another missile strike was directed at the city of Dhahran and its air base. After carrying out their duty, the missile launchers returned safely to base, thanks be to God. May God bless you, O our heroic missile forces.
3. The U.S. enemy and its Atlantic and Zionist allies carried out 87 raids on our brave units and on civilian and population targets in our country.

4. With God's help, two hostile planes were shot down by our ground and air defenses.

Our people and their Armed Forces will continue to confront the barbaric aggression and will exact a heavy price from its perpetrators, symbols, and agents. God is with us on the road to victory.

[Signed] Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 9 Rajab, corresponding to 26 January

Allied Raids Counted 26 Jan

NC2601174491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1704 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Communique No. 24 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The barbarian U.S. aggressors, their allies, and their slaves stand as cowards in hesitation and reluctance to confront our valiant troops, after falsely alleging they would wage a swift lightning war—or the other ridiculous names they have given it—to influence the morale of our people has become clear. After these rogues have failed to achieve their black, sick dreams, they found nothing to make up for and cover up their failure, other than to continue the random and aggressive raids against our sectors and residential areas in our country. However, in this one, as in the others, they will be repulsed and defeated, with God's will and the willpower of men.

The total of the rogues' aggressions and our troops' response to them is as follows:
1. Enemy aircraft carried out 113 raids against our units in sectors of operations and against residential quarters in other areas of the country.
2. The men of our air and ground defenses succeeded in shooting down five air targets, both planes and missiles. May the hands stay in cohesion and proceed along the (?road) of the holy jihad, and God be with us.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 9 Rajab 1411 Hegira; 26 January 1991.

Statement on Planes' Landing in Iran

NC2601143191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1420 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Statement by military spokesman; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Last night, 25 January, several of our planes were forced to land in Iran. Contacts are being carried out, in accordance with accepted norms, to return the planes and the pilots to their homeland.

Military Situation Outlined 27 Jan

NC2701073791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0640 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Communique No. 25 issued by the Armed Forces General Command 27 Jan]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: God is great; with his blessing we proceed and in his name we strike to avenge our martyrs and the nation's martyrs and punish the Zionists and traitors. Those who imagined that the aggression against Iraq would be a picnic and who propagated this with various means and on all levels have been shamed by God, who has revealed their lies and false claims and disappointed their hopes.

Before the people of the earth and contary to what they imagined and claimed, they are facing Iraq's magnificent steadfastness. Before the whole world the cries of disappointment and frustration and the words of despair are rushing from the mouths of the symbols of aggression. This is happening, though they have not yet tasted Iraq's gigantic strength. This is happening while Iraq has not yet started its lightning and painful strikes which will burn their forces and all their black intentions. However, so that the enemies will suffer the consequences of their acts against its population targets and to make its enemies pay a high price sooner and not later, Iraq's missile force continues its strikes at a time when Iraq's heroes are confronting the enemy's barbaric attacks.

The following is the outcome of our activities and the enemy's attacks:
1. With God's help, before midnight last night, a missile strike was directed at the city of Riyadh, the capital of the agents and slaves from the Saudi clan.
2. At the same time, two missile strikes were directed at Tel Aviv, which poured fire on the heads of the arrogant Zionists to avenge what their hands have committed.
3. At the same time, and with God's help, a missile was directed at the occupied port of Haifa.
4. After a short time, two missile strikes were directed at Tel Aviv to pound the positions of the filthy Zionists.

After carrying out their duties, the missile launchers returned safely to base, thanks be to God. May God bless the pious, courageous, loyal, and struggling men of our missile force.
5. The enemy carried out 112 air sorties over our units and population centers in the country yesterday afternoon and last night.
6. Thanks to the men's determination, three air targets, including planes and missiles, were downed.

We send all praise to our air and ground defense forces wherever they are defending the homeland. Go foward and victory is ours.

[Signed] Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 10 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 27 January 1991

'Heroic Steadfastness' Praised

NC2701235891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Communique No. 26 issued by the Armed Forces General Command; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our people, who have age-old traditions, and our valiant Armed Forces, with the help of the Almighty God, have continued to demonstrate the heroic steadfastness that has won the admiration of the whole world and to confirm the eternal wisdom that says that faith is invincible, that truth is unerasable, that right is bound to triumph, and that the will of good is stronger than all idols. While our heroic missile forces pounded the dens of the enemy and the dens of treason, shame, debauchery, and infidelity, as mentioned in our previous communique, the heroes of our Armed Forces and air defenses are standing nobly to defeat the aggressors.

Brothers, the enemy's air sorties since yesterday morning and until this communique was prepared against the populated areas in our country and against our forces totaled 90 raids from the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and Turkey. The ravens of savagery were forced to flee, and one aircraft was downed, which fell in flames inside Turkish territory.

Forge ahead. God is with us.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 11 Rajab 1411 [Hegira], corresponding to 27 January 1991

Saudis' 'Treason' Decried

NC2801090791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0825 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Communique No. 27 issued by the Armed Forces General Command; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Under God's protection, our noble mujahid people pursue their heroic steadfastness and their confrontation of the alliance, led by the United States, which seeks to harm our people and our land. We will continue to wage this glorious epic with the determination of the brave, the faithful, and those who stand fast until God allows us to achieve victory. His promise is the best of all promises.

The following is a roundup of the enemy's attacks and our activities:
1. The enemy waged 118 air sorties on our residential sectors and targets in our dear Iraq.
2. There are no limits to the treason of the Al Sa'ud and their subjugation not only to their Western masters but also to the Zionist entity. They committed a crime today, the likes of which has been committed only by them, that of placing their land and airports under the command of the Zionist entity for attacking Iraq with all that it embodies; and, thus, 50 Zionist planes have crossed the borders of occupied Palestine to Saudi territory to join the aggressive armies there at dawn today.
3. Our air and ground defenses confronted the aggressors' planes and managed to down three air targets.

May God bless our sons who proceed on the path of upholding the dignity of the homeland and its people. Forge ahead.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 11 Rajab 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 28 January 1991

Statement on Bombing of Oil Pipelines

NC2801133591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1221 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Military spokesman's statement—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

At 1915 last night, the aircraft of the American-Atlantic-Zionist alliance raided our oil installations in the governorate of Kuwait, targeting the oil refinery equipment. The enemy aircraft attacked the oil pipelines and the control valves in the al-Nida' port, setting them on fire and causing quantities of oil to leak.

Once again, the United States and its allies demonstrated their unrestrained desire to waste the enormous Arab wealth and to prevent our people and nation from benefiting from this wealth. Despite Iraq's repeated warnings to the United States and its allies on the need to preserve and not pollute the environment in this region and despite our reminders of the serious dangers resulting from this (?leakage), the United States and its allies are forging ahead on this evil road, disregarding our national property and our clean environment in this part of the world and giving priority to their limited interest over any other human considerations by inflicting harm on Iraq.

We appeal to the international public opinion and its organizations, especially those that have dedicated themselves to protect the environment to raise their voices and make the utmost efforts against these crimes. Our forces and technical organs are now trying to extinguish the fire by all means and halt the oil flow and lessen the consequencies of the U.S. crime.

Minister's Message to WHO

NC2801102591 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0906 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has sent a message to the WHO director general. In his message, the health minister said the WHO must take a positive and constructive stand on the foreign military presence in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf waters.

The letter says: Following our letters to you on the need to act decisively in regard to the presence of the forces of the United States and its allies in the Arabian Gulf region, in which we mentioned the possibility that environmental and ecological damage to human life might occur in the region, recent events have confirmed the soundness of our predictions and our previous references.

U.S. forces and their allies attacked Iraqi tankers transporting oil. This led to the leakage of large quantities of oil into Arabian Gulf waters, causing a serious environmental threat to human health.

We reiterate our call to you to adopt a positive and constructive stand on the foreign military presence in the Arabian Peninsula and the Arabian Gulf waters, especially since your organization is concerned with the protection of human health through your organization's declared objective of achieving health for everybody.

We also express our deep concern that more serious environmental problems could take place that will affect human health, particularly since there are reports about the presence of nuclear warheads on U.S. and Atlantic planes in the Arabian Gulf waters and the Red Sea.

From the outset we have been asking you to adopt more serious positions that will better mesh with developments premised upon our accurate analysis of the eventualities that we have mentioned and that have been substantiated by recent events.

Comparison of Statement Challenges West's Lies

NC2501212291

Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1330 GMT on 25 January carries the text of the Iraqi military spokesman's statement broadcast by Baghdad Domestic Service at 1411 GMT on 25 January. The INA version has been compared to the Baghdad Radio version published in the 25 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 18-19 under the headline "Military Spokesman Challenges Western Lies" revealing the following variations:

Page 18, column two, fifth paragraph, fifth sentence reads: ...is their mutual pressure on one another as countries to affect their political, economic, media, and financial positions. Perhaps the public pressure of the United States.... (clearing queried and indistinct words, rewording);

Same page, same column, sixth paragraph, sentence one make: ...in this enterprise. This is although the prerequisites of the parliamentary game to enable this or that politician to attain rule require a certain mode of dealing with public opinion in their countries, including the media organs. We have noticed.... (rephrasing);

Page 19, column one, second complete paragraph, sentence one reads: ...patient sons of Adur [placename as received], the sons of Mosul, the noble men in al-Hadba', and our sons.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording);

Same paragraph, sentence two reads: ...this American statement as well as the CNN correspondent's in Baghdad to all these... (clearing queried words, rewording).

'Responsible Source' Says Border With Jordan Open

NC2601070991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Our radio has learned that Iraq will not allow Arab citizens to leave its territory unless they obtain prior permission from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

A responsible source at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman has affirmed that contrary to what has been reported, the Iraqi border has not been closed. He explained that the new instructions introduced by Baghdad are aimed at organizing the departure process from the country.

Meanwhile, border sources pointed out that an official from the Iraqi border post of Tirbil yesterday headed for Baghdad to obtain departure permission for citizens who have been at the post for two days. Estimates have placed the number of such people, most of whom are Jordanians and Palestinians, at at least 1,000. They are expected to enter Jordanian territory as soon as they obtain the necessary authorization from the Iraqi authorities.

Fortifications Reported Built Along Turkish Border

LD2801113691 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Mahabad, W. Azerbaijan Prov., Jan. 28, IRNA—Iraq has reportedly built fortifications on Iraq-Turkey border in the past few days against any surprise attack which may be launched from Turkey.

"Voice of People of Iraqi Kurdistan", a radio of an opposition Iraqi Kurdish group, monitored here Monday said that Turkey while reinforcing its military forces along its border with Iraq has set up tens of field hospitals on the border strip.

Forces Said Deploying in Civilian Areas

PM2801100191 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 24 Jan 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Forces Seek Protection Among Civilians"]

[Text] London—AL-ZAHIRAH has learned from informed sources that the Iraqi president has, in desperation, ordered the Iraqi Army to deploy in civilian areas in Kuwait and Iraq to avoid the continuing strikes launched by the forces of the international alliance. Saddam Husayn's orders come amid heavy losses inflicted on the Iraqi forces. The Iraqi president is trying to exploit the U.S. pledge not to hit civilian targets to improve his military position. He has ordered military forces to move into residential areas—which has caused many people to flee the areas in which the Iraqi Army is to be deployed. The Republican Guard forces have prevented civilians from leaving in order to use them as a human shield against the international alliance forces' offensive.

U.S. Bombs Basra, Mandali; Plane Reported Downed

LD2101132891 Tehran IRNA in English 1209 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan. 21, IRNA—Fourteen U.S. warplanes bombarded the Iraqi city of Basra three times between 16:00 hours and 17:15 hours GMT Sunday [20 January]. The sounds of the bombing as well as the Iraqi anti-aircraft weapons were clearly heard in Shalamcheh border near the Iranian port city of Khorramshahr. One of the intruding planes was shot down by the Iraqi anti-aircraft fire; however, no report was immediately available on the fate of the pilot and the site of its crash.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Province of Ilam was jolted as a result of heavy explosions inside Iraq Sunday night. The district governor of the border town of Salehabad, in Ilam Province, told IRNA that the explosions occurred in the Iraqi city of Mandali overlooking Salehabad, thus jolting several towns in the province. This is the first explosion rocking the city of Ilam, since the outset of the U.S.-led war against Iraq last Thursday.

Cities 'Heavily Pounded' by Allies' Air Attacks

LD2801122391 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Meimak, Ilam Prov., Jan. 28, IRNA—Iraqi cities of Badra and Zorbatiya were heavily pounded Monday by the U.S. and Western fighter planes, IRNA correspondents dispatched to this western border city reported.

Every 15 minutes, planes of the U.S.-led Western forces shelled Iraqi border cities opposing Mehran border line, the report added.

After each explosion, a mushroom-like column of smoke rose which could be seen across Kani-Sakht heights in this province.

Air raids by countless invading planes on border cities continued overnight and this morning, eyewitnesses said.

Cholera, Typhus Epidemics Said Threatening Baghdad

AU2801103291 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1000 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Epidemics are threatening to break out in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. International relief organizations in Jordan are especially concerned about the spread of typhus and cholera. They say that the air raids of the multinational forces have led to the partial breakdown of the water and electricity supply. Because of the embargo mandated by the United Nations Organization following the occupation of Kuwait, Iraq is particularly short of some foodstuffs and medical goods, these organizations say.

Attacks Reportedly Cut Radio, TV Broadcasts

LD2701201891 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Ilam, Jan. 27, IRNA—The Iraqi radio and television broadcasts were simultaneously interrupted at 20:03 hours Tehran time (16:33 GMT) today and were still cut at the time of transmission of this despatch (16:58 GMT).

The interruption is believed to have been caused by air or missile attacks on the city's telecommunications center by the U.S.-led forces.

44-Minute 'Disruption'

LD2701205791 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Ilam, Jan. 27, IRNA—The Iraqi radio and television resumed its broadcasts at 20:47 hours Tehran time (17:17 GMT) today after a 44-minute disruption.

No reason was given by the announcer for the interruption.

Islamic Jihad Threatens U.S. Interests in Germany

NC2801115991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1142 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The [Islamic] Jihad Organization spokesman has threatened to attack U.S. installations in Germany to protest U.S. aggression against Iraq.

In a statement to the [word indistinct] paper, the spokesman explained that the organization's members will attack all vital installations and utilities of the countries participating in the aggression against Iraq.

Envoy Warns Japanese Aircraft 'Might Be Attacked'

NC2601002991 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Iraqi Ambassador in Tokyo Rashid al-Rifa'i has warned that the military aircraft that Japan is planning to send to the Gulf region might be attacked like other aircraft. In an interview with our radio, Ambassador al-Rifa'i added that the Japanese Government has come under growing pressure from the opposition in parliament since Japan adopted its current stand on the Gulf war. Our colleague George Tarif reports:

[Begin recording] [Tarif] According to news agency reports, Tokyo plans to send Japanese military aircraft to the Gulf. What is your comment on this?

[Al-Rifa'i] In fact, we have been asked about this before and we said that any military aircraft flying in the battle zone can be a target. This was our comment, which is only natural.

[Tarif] What about civilian aircraft?

[Al-Rifa'i] Nobody can harass civilian aircraft, of course.

[Tarif] How do you view the Japanese stand on the war in the Gulf?

[Al-Rifa'i] Japan has unfortunately taken a hostile stand toward Iraq. It is supplying the aggressors with large sums of money, amounting to $11 billion. Of this, $9 billion was allocated by a decision today. They earlier allocated $2 billion. The total now is $11 billion. Japan has taken sides with the enemies against Iraq and the Arab nation. This is very regrettable.

[Tarif] Mr. Ambassador: What is the Japanese view of the Gulf war?

[Al-Rifa'i] The Japanese are peace-loving people and they do not want war. The majority of the Japanese oppose war. There are increasing calls and growing demonstrations protesting the American aggression against Iraq in the Arab region.

[Tarif] How do you assess Japan's losses because of the Gulf war?

[Al-Rifa'i] As you can see, Japan's losses amounted to $11,000 billion [figure as heard], which were allocated to the American forces in the Gulf.

[Tarif] You mean $11,000 million?

[Al-Rifa'i] Japan allocated several billion to adjacent countries in the region whose economy was affected as a result of the present conditions in the Gulf. As for the losses to come, I do not believe they can be counted, because, as you know, Japan depends considerably on the region, particularly for energy. Anything that affects energy exported to Japan will undoubtedly have a considerable effect on the Japanese economy.

[Tarif] Will the Japanese economic situation change in the future if it continues its support for the allies?

[Al-Rifa'i] There might be a considerable change, particularly if the war continues for a long time, as is expected. This will have a direct effect on energy supplies in Japan.

[Tarif] We, in turn, thank...

[Al-Rifa'i, interrupting] We hear Amman radio loud and clear here.

[Tarif] Clearly?

[Al-Rifa'i] Praise be to God. We hear it clearly most of the time.

[Tarif] We thank Mr. Rashid al-Rifa'i, Iraq's ambassador in Japan for this interview. [end recording].

Thai Workers Allege Tunnels, Underground Bunkers

Tunnel Worker Interviewed

*BK2501081891 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai
23 Jan 91 p 22*

[Text] On 22 January MATICHON met a Thai worker who was once hired by a German company to dig tunnels in Iraq. The worker, about 50 years old, had recently returned to Thailand. He disclosed that the construction of the tunnels began in 1979. There are three kinds of tunnels: concrete tunnels for use as headquarters, tunnels dug into mountains, and the tunnels made of curved iron. The first type of tunnels for use as headquarters are dug quite deeply into the ground, and reinforced with about two meter-high concrete walls. After the construction of the walls, the top was covered with laterite, and eucalyptus trees were planted at ground level to conceal the bunkers. The tunnels which are used as headquarters are equipped with highly sophisticated communications systems. The three types of tunnels are used to store weapons, such as tanks, rocket launchers, and aircraft.

The worker said that each type of tunnel can withstand heavy air raid strikes. For this reason, it seems that heavy bombardment by allied forces over the past few days could not inflict heavy damage on Iraqi weapons. In fact, there were losses on the Iraqi side, but not what the allied forces expected to see.

"I also watched news and live television broadcasts showing the U.S. bombing of several buildings. They might think that those buildings were weapon depots, but in fact there might have been nothing in those buildings," the worker said, adding that there are thousands of such tunnels in Iraq in various cities.

MATICHON also learned from the same source that several Thai workers were hired by this German company to construct tunnels. Thai workers are known for their skill. They are quick to learn the work and can be left to work independently without supervision.

The man said: "I think there should be no problem about workers. Thai workers have been a big help for Iraq, in the field of construction as well as other jobs, including housekeepers."

Underground Bunkers Described

AU2701211791 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Bangkok, Jan 27 (AFP)—A Thai worker who built underground bunkers in Iraq was quoted by a Bangkok newspaper Sunday as saying he doubted the allied air offensive would succeed.

The Thai-language daily MATICHON quoted an anonymous "young Thai worker" as saying he worked on three types of bunkers designed to keep Iraq's military command, air force and arsenal intact under heavy bombing.

The three types included an underground aircraft hangar lined with iron, he was quoted as saying.

The hangars were usually surrounded by hills but had enough flat surface area for immediate take-off. After construction they were buried in sand and rubble and ringed by trees for camouflage, he said.

"When the Americans said they would bomb Iraqi airfields until the airplanes could no longer take off, they were mistaken," Matichon quoted him as saying.

The worker said he was employed by a German construction firm that had built thousands of bunkers in Iraq.

He estimated that there were tens of thousands of bunkers built by foreign companies contracted by Baghdad.

"I don't think America can beat Iraq, because of the bunkers that the allies were hired to build," he said, adding: "The modern construction equipment that we used was American."

Thai workers, who were preferred for bunker construction projects, were also employed to build underground concrete bunkers intended to serve as battle command posts and barracks for high- level army officers, he said.

During construction the temperature inside the bunkers was kept between 28-34 degrees centigrade (82 to 93 degrees Fahrenheit), he said, adding that they were equipped with a range of telecommunications gear.

Thai workers also dug into mountainsides to build bunkers to store heavy weapons including anti-aircraft guns and tanks, he said.

Exposed areas were camouflaged with rubble left over from the digging to make the mountainside bunkers almost invisible from outside, he said.

Explaining why Thai workers were preferred for such projects, he said: "Thais don't only use their strength—they also use their brains."

Yugoslavs Say First Air Strikes Surprised Iraqis

OW2501013691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0058 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25 KYODO—The first air strikes against Iraq took the country by surprise because Iraqi officials had announced fighting would start later, said Yugoslavian workers who fled Baghdad the day after the Persian Gulf war started.

"At 2:25 A.M. on the (January) 17th we heard the sound of the first explosions and the antiaircraft guns started firing," Milivoje Avromovic told KYODO NEWS SERVICE on Thursday in Tehran.

"Until one hour after the air raid there was no black out because Baghdad TV had told the people that there would be no attacks until January 18. I think the Iraqis were taken by complete surprise," he said.

Avromovic was the leader of 15 Yugoslavs who escaped overland into Iran on the January 18. They were all employees of a Yugoslav company building liquid gas reservoirs near Baghdad for the Iraqi Government.

Avromovic, 45, the company's chief construction engineer, said the group tried to leave Iraq on January 16 but, "when we reached the Turkish border the crossing at Zakho was closed, so we had to return to Baghdad."

Avromovic said his group stayed the night in the company house in the center of Baghdad near the U.S. Embassy.

They felt safe in Baghdad even after the U.S.-led coalition began bombing the city because the attacks seemed to be very accurate and no residential areas were being hit, he said. "We could hear the sound of explosions but we could not see any damage."

On the morning of January 17 they still had no luck in leaving. "Our embassy was trying to get us exit permits for leaving Iraq through Iran," he said.

The bombing, although it was a surprise, did not seem to create panic, he said. "The people of Baghdad were strangely calm and had discipline. People very calmly were gathering their things and trying to leave the city. Only petrol stations were a little bit crowded," Avromovic said.

"Before the air raid the food situation was good, only bread was rationed, but about the situation after the attack I do not know because we had our own food supply," he said.

On the night of January 17 they again gathered in the company house and spent the night playing cards. By this time there was no electricity or water in the city and the telephone only worked in some neighborhoods.

"We left Baghdad on January 18 with the company Nissan bus at 14:30, and it took us four hours to reach the border with Iran at Khaneqein," he said.

The only woman in the group, Ruza Sekulic, 44, who is a cook, said, "Yugoslav women and children had been evacuated from Iraq but I didn't want to go because these men could not take care of themselves without me."

"When we reached the border we wanted to cross the border immediately but the Swiss Red Cross told us it is better to stay the night on the Iraqi side," she said.

The next day they crossed the border through the Khosrowvi crossing and left their bus and food and medicine to the Red Cross.

On the Iranian side, Sekulic said, "We were welcomed by the Iranian Red Crescent and we were given tents and I was given a Red Crescent flag to cover my head according to Islamic law."

The group left western Iran for Tehran on January 20 and since then they have stayed in one of Tehran's four star hotels.

They saw few refugees on the road to the border, Avromovic said. "But later on in Iran we were joined by many people from Sudan, Yemen, and Tunisia but no Westerners."

U.S. Psychological Tactics With Saddam Reported

EA2301193891 Khartoum National Unity Radio in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] A group of American experts in psychological warfare have recorded a 12-minute cassette tape of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. Words and sentences of the Iraqi president, extracted from hundreds of his discussions and speeches, have been collected and turned into sentences. The Iraqi Embassy in Khartoum said that the tape would be played on the radios directed toward Iraq during the iniquitous aggression against brave Iraq, with the intention of ruining Iraqi Radio and TV broadcasts.

Commentary Reviles, Threatens Mubarak

NC2701224691 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2034 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listener: Once again, we were not surprised by what the spiritless Husni said on Thursday [24 January]. Nor did we find it strange to see him appear more Zionist in his speech than his Zionist friends in Tel Aviv. And because we are well aware that he is scared to death, defeated, and afraid of (?the West), and that the failure of his American and Zionist masters and the defeat of their aggression against Iraq have made him lose his senses and robbed him of what remained of his (?balance), we were not surprised by the clear [word indistinct], the contradictions, and the numerous pitfalls that marked his speech.

Husni advised his Israeli allies to focus on what he called defense to protect them from any external attacks. Meanwhile, he forgot this advice in another part of his speech when he attempted to belittle and underestimate the effect of the al-Husayn missiles that have pounded Tel Aviv, Haifa, and other targets in the Zionist entity. He attempted to put on a false face of courage that people like him who lack manliness do not have. Thus, he termed Iraqi missiles children's fireworks. And because we do not want to argue with the spiritless and scared persons who sell their positions and the dignity of their homelands, peoples, and nation for hard currency, we only want him to notice the effect of the Iraqi missiles on the hearts and minds of his Zionist friends and allies, and also to see the panic and horror that missiles have produced in the dens of treason and corruption in Riyadh, Dhahran, al-Dammam, and elsewhere. Husni assails the Arab leaders who support Iraq's position because this agent suffers from an inferiority complex with respect to them and also because he knows deep down in his heart, in spite of his deplorable stupidity, that his positions run contrary to the positions taken by honorable men and free Arabs. The positions of these Arab leaders remind Husni every day—every hour and moment—of his high treason and abominable crime. That is because he sold everything and gave his masters everything until he became bankrupt. Now there is nothing left in his bag to give them. First and foremost, when he made these statements, this trivial traitor was reacting to the position of the militant Egyptian people, the brothers and sons of 'Abd-al-Nasir, the grandsons of Sa'd [Zaghlul], [Ahmad] 'Urabi, and Mustafa Kamil, and also to the pressure applied on him by the nationalist, pan-Arab, and Islamic parties that asked him in official memoranda and statements to withdraw Egyptian troops from the trench that is hostile to the Arab nation. Hence, when he speaks as a frightened coward and as a president rejected by his people, Husni does not know what the future holds for him. The Egyptian people, who have a rich legacy of Arabism, struggle, and history have expressed their opinion and handed down their verdict on the [word indistinct] Husni. They carried out the sentence of his predecessor al-Sadat. Hence, Husni's date with death will not be far away.

Radio Talk Stresses Country's Unity

NC2601074091 Baghdad Radio of the Mother of Battles Network in Arabic 0525 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] All of Iraq, from Zakho to the sea, is today taking a historic stand that has profound significance and will remain an eternal testimonial to and symbol of heroism and sacrifice to defeat the treacherous aggression launched by criminal Bush in collaboration with the NATO countries, the Zionists, and reactionary and backward countries such as the traitor of the two holy mosques and the unblessed [pun on Mubarak, which means blessed] Husni.

Today all four corners of Iraq stand united behind their great leader, victor with the help of God, Saddam Husayn, to defeat the aggressors and invaders. The patient and victorious Iraqi people have become a symbol of glory and the key to the bright future that the forces of oppression and aggression seek to crush and turn into darkness obstructing the light to which our masses and nation and all honest peoples of the world are looking.

The aggression by the forces of oppression, unrighteousness, and evil launched by Bush's criminal administration against patient and victorious Iraq will only reap defeat and disgrace. The U.S. Administration's tools and symbols this time will not escape the nation's wrath, because it realizes that the battle of the mother of battles is the battle of righteousness, justice, honor, and dignity against evil and unrighteousness. It is the honorable showdown our people and nation have prepared themselves to wage in defense of sovereignty, land, sanctities, humanity, and progress. The great showdown in the battle of the mother of battles will be the main beacon for Arabs and Muslims on the path to pride, glory, and victory.

Villains of the likes of Bush are deluding themselves if they believe that they will emerge from this historic battle without being severely punished. Our heroic Armed Forces and people led by their righteous son, Saddam Husayn, will let fire burn the last traces of the fleeing aggressors and the dens of the renegade traitors. Victory comes from God and tomorrow is not far off.

U.S. 'Faulty Calculations,' Poor Planning Cited

NC2601114591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA)—As the war nears its 10th day, the newspaper AL-'IRAQ draws a comparison between the Iraqi front's steadfastness and sound calculations, and imperialism's faulty calculations and poor military planning.

The newspaper recalls remarks by American officials and their allies before the war began, to the effect that the war against Iraq would be a short, swift, and decisive one, in which victory would be achieved within hours.

In its editorial, AL-'IRAQ says that this serious matter about which we are talking not only represents gaps on the operational level, but also reveals the deficient strategic mind which prepared the battle plan against Iraq.

The newspaper emphasizes that the failure of the U.S. war machine, together with the war machine of the allies and agents, to achieve its objectives and then secure its political goals have placed the hostile camp in a dilemma.

AL-'IRAQ says that this failure points to the deadly predicament awaiting these forces. It is irrefutable proof of the defeat of the philosophy and theory of the confrontation they have adopted against Iraq.

The newspaper adds that the duration of the war against Iraq cannot be counted in days or months; it will be a protracted one in which Iraq will make the enemy understand that their wager, on a short, swift, and decisive war, is the wager of a losing gambler.

AL-'IRAQ stresses that the failure of theory and philosophy of any military plan is a clear indication that all subsequent military activity on the operational and mobilization levels will also fail.

Arab Masses Urged To Strike Allied Interests

NC2601123991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0745 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Iraq's heroic steadfastness is taking root, and the great victory scored by the soldiers of right and faith in the first chapter of the battle has become a spiritual asset of great importance. It has given the sons of the Arab nation and its struggling and militant forces confidence in the inevitability of Iraq's victory in the mother of battles and in the justness and legitimacy of seizing this opportunity to accomplish the nation's objectives no matter the cost. Without this, the Arabs cannot avoid the humiliation and slavery that the United States and Zionism ultimately want to impose on the entire Arab world.

Iraq's steadfastness in all its positive significance and implications and its escalating combatant readiness to wage the major battle on all levels, with all methods, and in all forms, both conventional and unconventional, have raised Arab and Islamic anger to a new stage where stands, goals, and methods of action are determined in accordance with the requirements of the battle. The enemy of God and humanity, Bush; his scoundrel Atlantic and Zionist allies; and his humiliated agents wagered on the possibility of directing a blitzkrieg against Iraq to halt [words indistinct] the roots of its power and deeply affect the sources of its strength. Another of their objectives was to drive the popular Arab movement and the struggling, militant, and honorable forces of the nation to despair and thus weaken them. Thus, through the so-called blitzkrieg, the Americans and Zionists meant to achieve many evil objectives with one blow.

Iraq's steadfastness, its formidable ability to absorb the air and missile attack, and the failure of the main objectives as set down on paper have, however, foiled the calculations, plans, and dreams of the enemies and brought them to a fatal impasse; they were forced to enter the remaining chapters of the battle. The enemies also failed to break the will of resistance and struggle in the nation—the natural extension of Iraq, the leader of believers.

The Iraqi victory has given the nation's militant forces and the entire Arab popular movement the necessary time to gather their forces in accordance with accurate calculations, with a view to pushing them into the battle as soon as possible. These capabilities should be an effective additional factor pursuing the enemies in every corner of the Arab world and elsewhere.

Iraq's steadfastness will be bolstered by successive and continuous victories, God willing. This means that the nation's combatant and militant forces should prepare themselves as required, and in a way compatible with the depth of the battle and its major objectives of liberating Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan from the Zionist occupation and of liberating Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] from the invaders and dwarf traitors who robbed the nation of its wealth.

The forces of right and faith are ready, awaiting the moment to unleash their fierce anger and move forward, under the banner of God is great, to achieve all the goals of the believers, reduce the concentrations of the aggressive invaders and their sophisticated war machine to rubble, and turn the Arabian desert into a graveyard for all the aggressors and invaders who desecrate our sacred lands and violate the land of prophethood and messages.

The popular Arab anger has been embodied by the millions that have taken to the streets everywhere in our great homeland, strongly expressing their feelings and declaring their support for Iraq in its battle for honor and dignity in defense of the nation's rights, interests, and future. This anger must be translated into tangible acts that should echo in the field. It should take the form of a struggling force to fight the gathering of evil and atheism after selecting the targets. Blows should be directed with firmness and and determination where they will cause the most pain, so as to make the enemy bleed constantly from all sides. The enemy should not be given the chance to move or catch its breath.

The battle will be a long one, involving predictable and unpredictable scenarios. The surprises Iraq has prepared and the part of its strength that has been hidden thus far will find their way onto the battlefield at the appropriate time. Thus, the popular movement will not be [word indistinct] and able to perform its role and responsibility in the mother of battles, and is today required to draw up well-devised plans and consolidate its preparedness in a way commensurate with the depth of the major battle and its goals of liberation. Every painful strike against the interests of the invading aggressors and all significant blows on individuals and installations will have an affect on the devils and confuse their plans and calculations. The effective Arab upsurge will also undermine the morale of the invading forces. Thus, every fighter and struggler in the pan-Arab and Islamic depth will contribute his share to the great victory that will be achieved, with God's help. Let our slogan in each strike be: God is great and forward we march.

Talk Claims Iraqi Force 'Not a Conventional One'

NC2601171891 Baghdad Radio of the Mother of Battles Network in Arabic 1535 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Let the enemies know that Iraq is strong because of its people and leader and that it will not be shaken by the failed raids. The sons of Iraq have declared jihad, jihad, and jihad and have vowed to fight, fight, and fight with full power until victory is achieved.

The Iraqis alone are the ones who will decide the final victory, God willing. The power that the Iraqis have mustered to confront the U.S. and Zionist aggressors is not a conventional [taqlidiyah] one. All the potential, resources, and capabilities are in our favor, and it is difficult to penetrate these factors, which Bush had underestimated. War scenarios are not unknown to Iraq, which is aware of their volume and effects. We do not belittle anybody's ability, as leader Saddam Husayn has stated, but we know well the potentials and capabilities of our Armed Forces, and that they will achieve the final victory. We also know well when to respond and when to use this power, and God willing, we will destroy all the enemy's brutal machines, no matter how long it takes.

History will record this great honor, the honor of the great Iraqi duel by the sons of the Tigris and the Euphrates, in their defense of the Arab rights, fighting the forces of infidelity which desecrated the land of the holy places and turned it into a base for aggression against Iraq. Victory is coming, God willing, for those who have great principles, and the banners of Iraq and the nation will remain high toward glory.

Paper: Nation Will Overcome Allies' Technology

NC2501230791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that victory in this duel will definitely come to the gathering of faith, regardless of what the evildoers do, and irrespective of what they have amassed and mobilized.

In an editorial entitled "We Decided To Triumph Ever Since We Prepared for the Duel," the paper stresses that the imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic aggression has not targeted Iraq with its material resources only but at the same time aimed against the morale of the Iraqis, the vanguards of the faithful gathering in this major battle.

The paper adds: It has become clear that the gathering of evildoers has massed together everything it can. The technical methods and resources it has employed, and which represent the most advanced technology, pose no difficulty for the Iraqis. It is possible for those who have firm determination and individual and collective combat effectiveness, which is based on a distinguished spiritual belief in the major historical objectives of the mother of all battles, and in the leader of the battle of all battles, Saddam Husayn, to locate and destroy those resources

The paper adds that the Iraqis' endurance and determination have always stood the test of challenges. Iraqis have always succeeded in embodying their endurance and determination and, in this historic duel, they have added those two factors to their other factors of preparedness. Together with their great leader, they have decided to make this a long battle against the gathering of the enemies, and a heavy one on their shoulders, especially because the gathering of the enemies has staked its success on the element of surprise or the "lightning war" or the "quick war," and so forth, using those terms and names. Only two days after the beginning of aggression, they discovered that they cannot make the war turn out like that, because their will, which ignited the war, is not the one that will finish it.

The newspaper concludes by saying: It is enough that our great people are assured, confident, steadfast, and efficient enough for them to play the role and fulfill the mission entrusted to them by God Almighty, by history, and by the present and future of the faithful. Leader struggler Saddam Husayn is the symbol for this generation, which is determined to achieve the Arabs' and Muslims' objectives in liberating the sacred places, the wealth, and protecting land and honor. He is with them on the fronts of right and valor. He lives in their hearts and minds, with his open eyes, wisdom, and faithful heart so that the gathering of the evildoers—despicable Bush, the Zionists, Fahd, Husni, and their ilk and those who sided with them—will know for certain that time is on Iraq's side and that the Iraqis have prepared themselves for the battle. They have prepared themselves and are determined to achieve victory in the mother of battles. And with the help of God, victory will be achieved.

Paper Predicts 'Total Defeat' of 'Aggressors'

NC2501123691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA)—AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that total defeat will be inflicted on all the evil aggressors without exception, beginning with the war criminal, racist, and fascist Bush and the well-known fascist Shamir, and ending with all the midget traitors who are allied with the enemies of the nation.

In today's editorial, the paper says that the Iraqi response to the aggressors has not yet used all Iraq's capabilities and force to destroy the aggressive American-Atlantic armies and to strike at all the cells of the traitors and racists who harbor evil and aggressive intentions toward the Arab nation and Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH vehemently scoffs at U.S. President Bush's allegations that are designed to camouflage the exposed fascism and racism of Bush, who allows the premeditated killing of Iraqi civilians and who regards this as legitimate American action.

The paper notes that U.S. President Bush and some Arab traitors, such as Husni and agent Fahd, regard all the Zionist enemy's crimes against the people of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Tunisia as legitimate actions as far as America is concerned while they see all Palestinian and Arab resistance actions as terrorism.

AL-THAWRAH condemns the aggressive actions America and its allies have committed as well as their flagrant aggressive action that is represented by launching war against the Iraqi people and striking at civilian concentrations, including Iraqi children, a factory producing formula for them, and their peaceful homes.

The paper emphasizes that Iraq's firm response to the American-Atlantic aggression has frustrated all the unsuccessful allegations of Washington and Tel Aviv, which wished to realize their ambitions to harm the lofty Iraqi bastion through a blitzkrieg.

The paper asks: If all the American-Atlantic and Zionist military might could not destroy the Iraqi Air Force or the Iraqi missile pads despite more than 13,000 raids on Iraq, what have the enemies, who have used their war machine to the full, achieved?

The paper stresses that the whole world is well aware of the Iraqi people's will and their Army, which has known only victory in all showdowns. The paper emphasizes that this Army will destroy the aggressive American-Atlantic armies at the appropriate time and will demolish all cells of the traitors and the racist Zionists.

Comparison of Paper Says 'Powerful Response'

JN2801131991

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 24 January publishes a 550-word frontpage editorial under the headline "Bush's Disappointment." This has been compared with the Baghdad Domestic Service version of the editorial broadcast at 0908 GMT on 24 January and published in the 24 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT on pages 27-28 under the headline "Paper Says 'Powerful Response' in 'Early Stages'" and found to be identical, except for the following variations:

Page 27, column two, third complete paragraph, sentence two reads: ...defeat will be many-sided. One side will bring a comprehensive military failure, and another side will destroy the heads of.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording);

Same page, same column, fourth paragraph, sentences two and three reads: ...the coming days and will fill the cavities of his evil head that carries hatred against Iraq.... (clearing indistinct words, combining sentences, rewording);

Page 28, column one, first paragraph, last sentence, through second paragraph, first sentence reads; ...thousands of their forces return to them crushed and dismembered.

They came from a.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording);

Same page, second paragraph, sentence two reads: ...they had calculated in their computers and planned on paper would relieve them of Iraq and its.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording);

Same paragraph, last sentence, reads: ...them that their problem is not merely a predicament, but a catastrophe that will befall them from every direction—a catastrophe the extent of.... (clearing indistinct words, rewording).

Oppositionists Cited on Attempted Coups

PM2501164491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 91 pp 1-4

[Ibrahim Nawwar report: "Conflicting Reports About Attempts To Topple Saddam"]

[Text] There were conflicting reports yesterday that a military coup attempt occurred in Iraq two days after the start of the fighting between the allied forces and the Iraqi forces. Former Ba'thist leaderships based in London denied the reports, but the leaderships of some Islamic opposition organizations confirmed that the attempt did take place and gave further details. Iraqi Islamic opposition leaderships said that a group of military men stormed the radio building in Baghdad on Friday 18 January to broadcast a political statement to the Iraqi people, blaming Saddam for the war and urging the masses to rally around the coup leaders and to topple Saddam.

These leaderships said that Iraqi security forces arrested seven members of that group, among them two Ba'thists. They were all executed immediately.

Mr. Nuri al-Amin, a Politburo member and foreign relations chief of the Iraqi Organization for Islamic Action, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that not all those involved in the coup attempt were arrested. Only a limited number of the members of the group entrusted with storming the radio and television building were arrested. Al-Amin added that a large military organization within the Iraqi Armed Forces is still working to hunt Saddam Husayn down in one of his shelters and to topple him.

Al-Amin pointed out that the occurrence of the coup attempt is confirmed by the fact that Saddam Husayn ordered the suspension of radio broadcasts from the the main radio and television building in Baghdad. Broadcasts are currently being made from mobile units for only six hours a day, and not on a regular basis, to ensure that the location not be identified. This is also designed to mislead the anti-Saddam military cells and to cause them to waste their efforts in trying to find the source of radio broadcasts.

Dr. Ahmad al-'Askari, an Islamic Call Party leader in Iraq, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the coup attempt that occurred on the second day of the fighting between the allied forces and the Iraqi forces failed because the electricity supply was cut off deliberately by the security forces so not to prevent the group from broadcasting its political statement. Dr. al-'Askari added that the group in fact succeeded in reaching the central control room of the radio building before the electricity was cut off.

He said that the aim of broadcasting the statement was to conduct a process of political mobilization inside Iraq at both the civilian and military level in order to deliver a fundamental message, namely, that Iraq's salvation depends on toppling Saddam. Al-'Askari emphasized that this was the fundamental issue in Iraq even before the war started, and that the breakout of the war has not changed this priority.

He pointed out that that attempt was not the last and that it was was just an extension of the coup attempt uncovered a week before it was supposed to be carried out, early this month, in which Staff Major General Sultan Hashim Ahmad was executed together with about 100 Iraqi Army commanders and officers.

Kurdish Leader Backs Iraq Against Turkey

NC2501145691 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, Jan 25 (AFP) - A Kurdish Iraqi rebel chief warned here Friday that his forces would fight against the Turkish army if it entered Iraq. "The Turkish army will have to pass over our bodies to get into Iraq," Jalal Talabani said, charging that Ankara was "looking for excuses to interfere in the affairs" of Iraq.

The leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in the Syrian capital, also said the group had called off its operations against Iraqi troops in the northern provinces.

Ankara has authorized the U.S. Air Force to use a base in southeastern Turkey to bombard Iraq.

Mr. Talabani said thousands of Kurdish rebels who had taken refuge in Iran "to flee the repression of (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussayn" had returned to Iraq since the Gulf war erupted on January 17. But his forces would not enter the fray right off "because we do not want to be manipulated again and then end up paying the price of agreements between regional powers," the Kurdish leader said.

About 20 million Kurds live in mostly mountainous areas straddling Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria. Their drive for autonomy has been thwarted by governments using Kurdish rebels to destabilize neighbouring countries.

Kurdish rebels in Iraq were backed by Iran during the 1980-1988 Gulf war. Some 5,000 Kurds were reportedly killed in an Iraqi chemical attack on the border town of Halabjah in March 1988.

Opposition in Beirut Calls for Coalition System

NC2701091991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Beirut, 27 Jan (SANA)—The Iraqi National Committee for peace and solidarity has held the Iraqi president responsible for the eruption of the war in the Gulf and condemned his stubbornness in clinging to the occupation of Kuwait.

The committee issued a statement demanding that Iraq withdraw its troops from Kuwait, respect the international charters, and implement Security Council resolutions to solve the Gulf crisis.

The committee called on all forces of peace to stop the war and to establish a democratic coalition system in Iraq to realize the goals, interests, and ambitions of the Iraqi people.

SAIRI Condemns Saddam, U.S., Urges War End

LD1701152391 Tehran IRNA in English 1325 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—A prominent Iraqi opposition leader in a statement issued here Thursday called on world Muslims to stand unitedly against the aggressive war launched by the U.S.-led forces against Iraq and its Muslim people.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Badir Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), condemned the U.S. and its allies for their aggression and also denounced Saddam Husayn's regime for its indifference toward [words indistinct] the Iraqi people to stand against the aggression patiently and firmly, Hakim said "We will stand by our people to achieve independence, freedom and honour."

The SAIRI head called for an end to the aggression, withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and Saddam's respect for the will of the Iraqi people.

Vows To Fight in Ground Battle

LD2801124291 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—An Iraqi opposition leader said here Monday that if battle of ground forces break out in the Persian Gulf war, forces of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) will fight against the U.S.-led allied forces.

Head of the SAIRI, Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Badir Hakim, speaking to foreign and local reporters in a press conference here, added that SAIRI forces inside Iraq have been given orders to fight on the side of the Iraqi nation if the battle of ground forces starts.

Kurdish Iraqi Radio Reports Heavy Bombing

LD2801113391 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Mahabad, W. Azerbaijan Prov., Jan. 28, IRNA —The invading Western planes heavily bombed the Iraqi city of Sulaymaniyah on Sunday, Voice of People of Iraqi Kurdistan announced Monday. The bombing caused heavy casualties and material losses in Sulaymaniyah, the opposition radio monitored here said based on a report by its correspondent in the Iraqi northern city.

Bodies of several Iraqi Kurdish soldiers killed in Kuwaiti frontlines have been delivered to their families in al-Mawsil and Sulaymaniyah, the report added. The radio also claimed that Iraqi forces compel the people in Kurdish-populated areas to donate blood under gun points.

New Anti-Saddam Radio Broadcast Reported

LD2501233491 Tehran IRNA in English 2127 GMT 25 Jan 91

["New Iraqi Radio Station Calls Saddam 'Dictator'"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Ilam, Jan. 25, IRNA—A new radio station introducing itself as "Uzwmaul Iraq" (Voice of Iraq) began broadcasting in Arabic for ten minutes at 22:00 hours local time (18:30 GMT) Friday but was interrupted.

The radio broadcast on the medium wave, 31 meters band and was heard very well here in the western Iranian town bordering Iraq.

The new radio station launched extensive propaganda against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn calling Saddam a dictator [words indistinct] what group or organization had aired the broadcast and what was the reason for the sudden interruption.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi nationwide radio station was interrupted for one minute at 20:20 hours (16:50 GMT) Friday.

Clandestine Radio Extends Broadcasting Hours

LD2601174091 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1401 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] This is the radio of the Voice of Free Iraq. Brothers; at a request of several Iraqi quarters who stress the need to extend broadcasts of the radio of the Voice of Free Iraq to beyond midnight; given the current hard times; and in order to facilitate listening to the news, comments, and information presented by the radio; the directorate of the radio of the Voice of Free Iraq has decided to amend broadcasting hours as follows: from today, broadcasting will be on the air from 1600 [1300 GMT] to 0400 the next morning [0100 GMT] without interruption.

We draw the attention of our brothers and kinfolk in all the towns and villages of our beloved Iraq to this.

Shamir Promises No Surprises for U.S.

TA2801112591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Israel will do nothing that would surprise the United States, and consultations are being held by the two countries. This was stated by the prime minister at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. Recently, he asserted, relations between the two countries have improved greatly. Israel does not ignore the overall interest of achieving success in the campaign against Iraqi tyranny, and it will do nothing to damage that interest. Mr. Shamir stressed, however, that everything will be done to safeguard Israel's interests.

Minister Levi Likens Syria's Ambitions to Iraq's

TA2801092291 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said this morning that both Syria and Iraq have totalitarian regimes and that Syria has ambitions similar to those of Iraq, enormous quantities of weapons, and a concept of strategic parity with Israel which aims for the day when it will be able to defeat Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Minister Levi made these remarks in a meeting with members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The foreign minister added that the moment Israel was attacked with missiles, the blood of the dead and the wounded became the red line, and this line has already been crossed. The moment we were attacked, we came under orders. Nevertheless, Israel will decide to take action only after it loses the last vestige of hope and after it weighs all the aspects of the problem. On this issue, Israel is acting with utmost deliberation and nerves of steel, said the foreign minister.

27 Jan Cabinet Meeting Focuses on Gulf Situation

No New Resolutions Cited

TA2701122391 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Good day from the Prime Minister's Office. The weekly cabinet meeting has just ended. For the moment, the ministers prefer to listen at the cabinet meeting and not to make their voices heard. Naturally, most of the debate was devoted to security reviews. The defense minister, the chief of staff, the head of military intelligence, and the police commissioner reported on what is taking place on the Iraqi front and on the home front. There was nothing really new in the reports and the ministers said that evaluations have not changed significantly from last week. Uncharacteristically, the ministers prefer not to talk publicly. Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya, for instance, suggested that we come back to him after the war ends.

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Minister Ne'eman, are you satisfied with the government's policy on the Iraqi shelling?

[Ne'eman] I cannot say anything about that issue, because it touches on Israeli strategy. We will discuss it after the war.

[Gutman] Is there consensus in the cabinet on Mr. Shamir's current policy?

[Ne'eman] I cannot discuss issues linked to an internal debate or anything else.

[Gutman] Was there an internal debate?

[Ne'eman] No, I cannot refer to it. After the war ends we can deal with the history of it. [end recording]

Minister Moshe Qatzav justified the lack of comment by saying that any declaration serves Saddam and therefore Israel will not announce where, how, and when it will retaliate. On the other hand, Minister Yitzhaq Peretz praised the restraint exercised by Israel, but also called for fixing red lines.

[Begin recording] [Peretz] At today's cabinet meeting I referred to that issue. I said that I have great esteem for the policy of the prime minister and the entire government, a policy of moderation and restraint. I believe that despite the many missiles launched at Israel, that policy must be maintained. I also said that I believe we must fix for ourselves a red line which, if crossed, will bring an Israeli retaliation that will be much more painful than the massive U.S. bombing.

[Gutman] What is that red line?

[Peretz] I said that I would not determine what the red line is. I asked the defense minister if he delineated a red line; otherwise, we must determine one, and the moment it is crossed by the Iraqis, we must respond. The response must be more painful and thorough than the massive U.S. bombings. [end recording]

Minister Avner Sciaki raised the issue of preaching in the mosques and among the Palestinians in favor of Iraq. Minister Moda'i also voiced remarks on that subject. Let us hear what Minister Sciaki has to say:

[Begin Sciaki recording] I heard about Faysal al-Husayni and the mufti and I believe they should be tried and punished after what they really said is ascertained. There is no doubt that we are at war, and whoever harms the war effort, which is a life-and-death issue for Israel, must be punished. I believe that will be done. [end recording]

Defense elements did not respond to the calls of Ministers Sciaki and Ne'eman on that issue. We would like to point out that Minister Sciaki asked the defense minister about gas masks for bearded men, and Minister Arens promised that distribution would begin in the coming days.

Thus, nothing dramatic was decided at today's cabinet meeting. Minister Olmert summed it up after the meeting: No new resolutions were adopted. Israel continues to deeply appreciate the U.S. effort to stop the missiles, although we are perhaps not satisfied with the allies' success in preventing the missile threat to Israel from west Iraq. That was the main subject at the cabinet meeting. The ministers mainly heard reports. These days, the ministers take pains not to talk publicly. We know that the prime minister asked all the ministers to make as few public utterances as possible. In fact, he has only permitted the senior ministers to make public statements and other ministers must get specific permission to be interviewed. All, in fact, are following orders. We would now like to hear Cabinet Secretary Eliyaqim Rubinstein.

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Mr. Rubinstein, could you sum up for us in a few sentences the main issues discussed in today's cabinet meeting?

[Rubinstein] Naturally, the cabinet dealt almost entirely with the war issue. The defense minister and the chief of staff, within the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, reviewed the development of the war, especially in relation to Israel—the Iraqi missile attacks on the civilian population. The foreign minister reviewed political developments and the expressions of sympathy for Israel in the wake of the missile attacks, and the police affairs minister reviewed current issues.

The education and culture minister reviewed the resumption of high school studies and issues relating to the education system in the current situation. The construction and housing minister reviewed the efforts to reconstruct the homes hit in the missile attacks. A great deal of the debate centered on the issue of how to deal with hits on the civilian population.

I am now going to say several things in the wake of the prime minister's summation on that issue. First, the government expresses its great esteem for the behavior of those attacked in the missile attacks and sends its condolences to the bereaved families. The government will do everything possible to make sure those hit are properly compensated for all the damage caused. Details are being handled by the Treasury, which has instituted insurance retroactively for those homes already damaged. The government has also empowered ministers to institute emergency regulations in the wake of the present situation. The defense minister has been empowered to institute emergency regulations due to the special civil defense situation, including instructions to the population to remain home, as well as in sealed rooms.

[Gutman] What is the significance of the regulations? Will they now become compulsory?

[Rubinstein] I will not go into detail, but usually it provides legality to measures already taken. Some are compulsory and some are instructions and recommendations.

The labor and social affairs minister can also institute emergency regulations banning employers from firing workers absent due to civil defense emergency regulations that called on them to remain at home or due to the closure of the schools. [end recording]

The political issue was virtually untouched at the cabinet session. Only two ministers, Peretz and Pinhasi, referred to that issue, and both were satisfied with the government's performance and the policy of restraint.

We should recall that this is not the forum that makes decisions. There are various other forums for that. The prime minister convenes senior ministers for consultations together with defense elements and they are the ones who make the decisions on all aspects of security and policy. The cabinet is more a listening forum, and there are ministers who know little more than what the media reports.

We would like to stress one other thing. Minister Ari'el Sharon has not been heard to say anything since the crisis began. He left the meeting, entered his car, and refused to say a single word. Minister Refa'el Eytan did the same.

Levi Interviewed After Session

TA2701131791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1155 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Natan Gutman and Arye Golan "a few minutes ago outside the Prime Minister's Office, immediately after the Cabinet meeting" —recorded]

[Text] [Levi] Every day that passes we ask the same question: The cabinet studies all possible avenues, all repercussions, and when it decides, everybody will know that its decision was considered from all angles, that it was coordinated, and that it took into consideration all possible developments.

[Gutman] Sir, would it be correct to say that Israel is studying ways to stop missiles from being fired at it?

[Levi] All the time. I believe that it has the people's trust, which must not be wasted. The public knows that its government is studying the situation like a barometer, from all aspects, and it must be given the opportunity to function, not by shoving or panic. The issue is serious and must be taken seriously. We must always consider what the enemy expects, what the repercussions are, and what scope, timing, and methods to use.

[Gutman] You refer to the credit the government has among the people. The government currently also has a great deal of credit among the Arab countries, which appreciate the restraint we are showing. Do you believe that appreciation will continue even after we do something to stop the Iraqi provocations?

[Levi] First, our attitude on that serious matter is not based only on appreciation, but we should also not dismiss such things. It is very important and must be made into a lever for the future. I believe that Israel's interests are better understood today, but nothing is obvious. It is a pity that such solidarity came because we were attacked, but we must not downplay it. We must also remember that the U.S. Congress and Senate unanimously decided to back Israel and to provide it with everything it needs. In Europe, there are those who regret their previous actions; there is understanding and solidarity. If Israel decides to react it will be understood. We must, therefore, compare our situation with such understanding and solidarity to what it would be without such solidarity; we must convert such solidarity into a lever. We are trying to do that in messages to foreign government leaders and by receiving foreign ministers.

[Golan] Is Secretary of State Baker also expected to come here?

[Levi] All in good time. I do not believe that Baker's arrival will decide whether the United States stands by us or not. I am not counting on it. If he wishes to come he will be welcome; if he does not, we are still in constant contact at the highest levels, with him and the President. U.S. public opinion's support for Israel has been unparalleled in many years, and as I said, the Senate and Congress have unanimously supported Israel.

Arens: Iraq Crossed 'Red Line'

TA2701140791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has said that Saddam Husayn has already crossed the red line with his attacks on Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the defense minister made these remarks at today's cabinet session in reply to a question by Minister Yitzhaq Peretz as to what is the red line Iraq must cross to trigger an Israeli reaction.

Minister Arens said that Israel would definitely react, that it would do so at the time of its choice, and that all circumstances would be taken into consideration.

U.S. Effort Lauded

TA2701212291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The EC is showing encouraging signs. It may abandon its demand that an international conference be convened and that the PLO be incorporated into the negotiations when the discussion of the Israel-Arab conflict resumes. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin reports.

[Begin recording] The tyrant and tyranny must be stopped. This is a sentence uttered by Yitzhaq Shamir at the Cabinet meeting, a sentence which expresses an Israeli as well as a U.S. aspiration, but does not indicate ways of implementing it. The Cabinet meeting did not deal with ways of implementation, but expressed appreciation for the U.S. effort and announced its determination to take action at the appropriate moment. Decisions are not made at this meeting but in a different forum, the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs. [passage omitted]

Although the United States adheres to the war objectives and is making a great effort against the surface-to-surface missiles, some believe that the U.S. action is not enough. Several ministers expressed themselves on various occasions in favor of an Israeli reaction soon, but today's cabinet session featured mainly those who lauded the policy of self-restraint, knowing that the Iraqi ruler is greatly desirous of getting Israel involved.

On this matter, pessimistic assessments were received from Western sources regarding King Husayn's stance and behavior. The Americans currently believe that Husayn is growing increasingly more enslaved to Iraq, passes information to it, and is prepared to act against Israel if Israel uses its airspace for an anti-Iraqi operation. The Jordanian king may repeat the mistake he made in 1967, the Western sources said.

As for the political front, the foreign minister said that the wave of solidarity may be turned into a political lever, and initial signs in this direction are already apparent. In coordination with the Americans, the EC is looking for a new formula for promoting the political process after the Gulf crisis. According to the emerging formula, the EC is prepared to strike off the agenda two clauses that until now were solid foundations of EC policy: the international conference and the PLO's participation in negotiations. Coordination talks will begin tomorrow between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Luxembourg's foreign minister, who represents the 12 EC countries. Their discussion will revolve around the post-crisis Middle East, and the picture seems favorable for Israel at the moment. [end recording]

Military Spokesman on Retaliation Against Iraq

LD2701215791 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Interview with Major (Gabriel), Israeli Defense Forces spokesman, by unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Iraqi threats against Israel continue and the Israeli population continues to fear the attacks, particularly attacks by chemical weapons. Life in Israel continues to be threatened, although between alerts it is returning to normal. Children returned to school today carrying their gas masks with their books. This is the situation in Israel, when the Iraqi threat against Israel has still not stopped. Israel for the moment maintains its policy of restraint against the attacks. We have a direct line with Jerusalem and a spokesman for the Israeli Defense Forces [IDF], Major (Gabriel).

The Israeli Cabinet, meeting today in Jerusalem, has ratified the policy of restraint against the Iraqi attacks.

However, it was made clear that there is a limit after which Israel will not hesitate in replying to the aggression. What is the limit?

[(Gabriel)] Well, we cannot speak of a limit. Israel is a democratic country in which the IDF will carry out the decisions of the government, as normal. However, our position continues to be that after having been attacked seven times by Iraq, with missiles and without any provocation on our part, we reserve the right to take a position, and to react; and this will be done when and how we think it best.

[Announcer] The international community is publicly thanking Israel for its restraint in the face of the attacks. However, from Baghdad we have heard the threats continue. Today's war communique repeats that Israel is a primary target and that Iraq has very powerful, destructive nonconventional weapons which it will use when the time is right. Would it be Iraq's use of chemical or bacteriological weapons that would make the Israelis reply?

[(Gabriel)] For our defense we have taken into consideration the possibility that Iraq will decide to attack us with chemical weapons. It is a possibility that we are considering, and we are prepared with all the measures possible for an attack of that type, despite the fact that to date the only attacks have been—as is known—of conventional weapons.

[Announcer] However, according to a late news item, Defense Minister Moshe Arens says that Iraq has already crossed the red line, and the reply is only a matter of the timetable. Is it to be expected then that the reply could be imminent, at any moment—Israel's reply to Iraq?

[(Gabriel)] We maintain our position that the reply will come when we think it is necessary and opportune; and we believe it is obvious that as a country which has been attacked, we have to defend ourselves, to defend our population. It is obvious that we are not going to announce it beforehand, especially not on radio and in the media. But the decision will be made and carried out when it is necessary.

[Announcer] What does an Israeli, and more specifically an Israeli soldier, feel when his country is being attacked and the most prudent decision is not to reply. Doesn't that create a sense of impotence?

[(Gabriel)] This war has been... well, let's say the Iraqi attack gave rise to a situation of war between Iraq and Israel; a special situation and unique in Israel, in which the Israeli rear guard is attacked. There is no doubt we have to accustom ourselves to a different type of war than we have unfortunately had in previous situations.

[Announcer] Finally, it appears that the U.S. Patriot missiles have shown great effectiveness against the Iraqi Scuds. Do you think these Patriots are sufficient defense against any attack?

[(Gabriel)] The Patriot missiles are not the only air defense that Israel has. There is no doubt that they have changed the situation and that they are an important air defense, so we thank the Americans for having sent us more of these missile batteries recently.

Officer Says All Scuds Detected 'Ahead of Time'

TA2701162691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] A senior Air Force officer says that all the Scud missiles fired at Israel were detected ahead of time, but not all of them were intercepted. Addressing members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the officer said the missiles were intercepted at very high altitudes and noted that the damage was caused by the ensuing blasts.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that some committee members urged the defense establishment to reassess daily whether to change its instructions to the citizens to proceed to sealed rooms and tell them to go into bomb shelters.

Moda'i Cuts Short U.S. Tour, Raises Funds

TA2601232391 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2300 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i has cut short his U.S. tour. He is on his way back to Israel this evening. Our correspondent Qeren Neubach reports that Minister Moda'i only visited New York and that this morning he raised $250,000 among Jews who originated in Aleppo.

During his visit he was scheduled to meet with donors from the West Coast and Canada as well, but as we said, he canceled the latter part of his tour.

Returns; Anti-Iraq Plans

TA2701205191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i has disclosed that Israel has completed plans for an anti-Iraq operation, but in his opinion, we should still wait and not intervene in the crisis. Minister Moda'i had surprisingly cut short his visit to the United States and returned to Israel today. The finance minister stated that Israel had not submitted any request for aid to the United States, although the U.S. administration understands Israel's great needs. Our economic affairs correspondent 'Oded Shahar was at Ben- Gurion Airport today: [passage omitted]

At a meeting with journalists at the airport the finance minister said that certain developments that he would not elaborate upon forced him to cut short his visit to the United States.

[Begin recording] [Shahar] Has the time come for the Israeli Government to decide on a military operation, on military intervention in this crisis?

[Moda'i] If you are asking whether the time has come to carry out an operation, I believe we could wait a while longer perhaps, although I am not saying this with certainty. If you are asking whether the time has come to plan actions, that is overdue and actions have definitely been planned already. [end recording]

Yitzhaq Moda'i stressed that moves should be coordinated with the United States.

[Begin recording] [Shahar] Does Israel want to seize this opportunity to coordinate additional and generous aid with the Americans?

[Moda'i] First, there was no request for aid, as Mr. Eagleburger and Secretary of State Baker know, and as has been confirmed to me and to the U.S. public. There was rather an exchange of views on the matter. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Italian Minister Visits, Brings Message to Herzog

TA2701211491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Bruno Bottai, director of the Italian Foreign Ministry, arrived today on a visit to express solidarity with Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Bottai brought along a message from the Italian president to President Herzog.

Prospects for Iraqi Chemical Attack Discussed

Chemical Attack Expected

TA2701041991 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0400 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The assessment that Iraq will try to attack Israel with chemical weapons is becoming the increasingly popular view in the defense establishment. The decision, therefore, is not to change protective procedures. This was stated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman.

Brigadier General Yehuda Danon, the chief medical officer, said that if the Iraqis launch missiles with chemical warheads and these are intercepted by Patriot missiles, the substance will dissipate and no damage will be caused. He stressed the importance of the examination carried out by Civil Defense crews immediately after each missile attack to ascertain whether or not there are toxic substances.

Defense Measures Unchanged

TA2701062891 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Report by Army affairs corresponent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Experts believe that Iraq could use nonconventional weapons, either chemical or biological. Saddam Husayn's announcement that he intends to yank new weapons out of the storehouses obliges the public to maintain its high level of alert in the coming days. That conclusion has been strengthened in view of the increased estimates that Saddam could use chemical warfare against Israel via missiles or aircraft. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said last night in a briefing to military correspondents: We have the feeling that the moment will come when the Iraqis will use chemical weapons. We are expecting a chemical attack, therefore we will not change our defense measures.

Brigadier General Yehuda Danon, chief medical officer, said that due to the concern about the possible use of nonconventional weapons instructions should not be changed; people should remain in sealed rooms and don masks during missile attacks. He said special teams arrive at the sites of the missile attacks immediately after they are fired, and within 10 to 15 minutes carry out the tests to ascertain whether chemical weapons have been used.

Last night, two Scud salvos were launched at Israel, the first at 2200 [2000 GMT] and the second shortly thereafter. The Patriots launched at the Scuds intercepted several of the missiles. Two people were slightly hurt and damage was caused by fragments. It was the first time that two salvos, one after the other, were fired at Israel.

Six Patriot batteries are now based in Israel. Military sources report that they provide good cover, all are operational, and five have already fired at Scuds. The company that manufactures the Patriots is investing great efforts to speed up production of the missiles. In the meantime, the Patriot systems are being thoroughly studied and significant improvement is expected in their performance, although they will never be able to provide a total solution to the Scuds.

The defense establishment and the IDF have declared a new state of alert, what the IDF spokesman called routine emergency. That situation permits a gradual return to routine in the economy and the education system while maintaining the necessary alert and the ability to upgrade the state of alert on the home front if it becomes necessary.

Probability of Use Cited

TA2701074491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0628 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Dani Nave, defense minister's media adviser, by Roni Daniyel—live]

[Text] [Daniyel] There is much more resolute talk about the possibility of a chemical attack. Is that based just on an evaluation or on knowledge?

[Nave] The danger that Iraq might use chemical weapons has existed since the crisis began, and even before that. If you remember, Saddam Husayn threatened in April to wipe half of Israel off the map, long before the Gulf crisis began.

[Daniyel] Yes, but did anything happen in recent hours or days to strengthen that evaluation?

[nave] No, nothing special has occurred in recent days beyond the standing warning about the possibility that chemical warheads might be used on his missiles. We cannot say with certainty that he has that capability, but there is such a possibility, and we must be prepared for it. We therefore continue to instruct the public that every time there is an alert they should enter a sealed room and don their gas masks.

[Daniyel] Does the defense establishment estimate that if and when Saddam is pushed to the wall, or in other words, when the military ground operations begin, that he will then chose to use those weapons?

[Nave] It is difficult to point to a specific time when he might make use of such weapons. On the other hand, it is logical to assume that the more his back is pushed to the wall he will feel he has less to lose. The danger then will be that he might go up one notch in the means he uses.

[Daniyel] Did the Americans, in the talks conducted here [by Lawrence Eagleburger], refer to the possibility that if Saddam Husayn uses such means, the United States will also go up one rung in the weapons it will make use of?

[Nave] You will obviously understand that I cannot go into the details of the talks and discuss what the reaction would be if such weapons are used. It is clear to all that it would call for a response, perhaps a different type of response, by us and the Americans, but it is certainly not the type of issue that can be discussed publicly. Neither we nor the Americans should tell Saddam Husayn what we might do in such a circumstance.

[Daniyel] Yes, but would the rules of the games change for the Americans in such a circumstance?

[Nave] I would not be surprised if the rules were to change for the Americans, but I would not like to discuss what they might do.

[Daniyel] Let us discuss the situation in the territories since the fighting began. There was an evaluation that there might be unrest there but it is generally quiet, is it not?

[Nave] In general yes, because we have imposed a curfew on the population, but we have still witnessed in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip very regrettable phenomena. We hear about people considered leaders of the population and ordinary people in the street with whom we live who praise attacks on innocent people. Yesterday I saw on CNN an ordinary woman who praised the missile attacks on Tel Aviv.

[Daniyel] Are you surprised by such a reaction?

[Nave] I would not say I am surprised, but I believe that all human beings, and of course all Israelis, must be disappointed by such phenomena. We are witnessing expressions which are a heavy blow to the hopes about Israelis and Arabs living together. Palestinian history is full of lost opportunities by the Palestinians, and I fear that the current period is another episode in that history because it leaves a legacy behind that I believe will be hard for Israelis to forget.

Substance Detector Deployed

TA2601043491 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0400 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has introduced into operation a chemical warfare substance detector manufactured by Elbit. The detector has been deployed in the units dealing with the identification of the content of the Iraqi missile warheads. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that this sensitive detector reacts to low concentrations of chemical substances and permits the troops to prepare accordingly. The detector allows for a speedy assessment of the size of the contaminated area. Some foreign armies have shown interest in the new equipment in light of the Gulf war. h1

Reportage on 25 Jan Scud Missile Attack

Patriots Fired at Incoming Scuds

NC2501171491 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The spokesman for the Israeli Defense Forces issued a statement saying: Citizens may take off the protective masks but should remain in the house or appartment. However, they may leave the sealed rooms.

The spokesman added that Scud missiles were fired toward Israel and that the air defenses fired Patriot missiles at the Scud missiles. The spokesman will release a statement on this soon.

[In another announcement at 1652 GMT, the Jerusalem Arabic announcer says: "Patriot missiles were fired at the Scud missiles in the North, and it seems they have hit the Scud missiles. However, we will provide information when this is confirmed."]

Spokesman Details Attack

TA2501205891 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2012 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with IDF (Israel Defense Forces) spokesman Nahman Shay by Dan Shilon and Shalom Qital]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening to you.

[Shay] Good evening.

[Shilon] It is now four hours and ten minutes after the alarm was sounded. We would like you to give us a summary of what happened.

[Shay] Well, this was the fifth attack in which missiles were launched from Iraq at Israel. This attack was similar in scope to the first one. It also took place on a Friday evening or on Sabbath—a day that is holy to all of us, and I also stressed this during the news conference that we just held here at the Hilton Hotel in Tel Aviv. The Iraqi attack on our civilian population in the northern and central part of the country caused injuries to approximately 40 people—most of whom suffered light wounds—and killed one man. A certain amount of damage was also caused to property on the ground where missile debris fell and was scattered over a wide radius. I again pointed out Israel's policy to the correspondents. This policy was also expressed today in the statements made by the chief of staff on Israeli television. We are full partners in the strategic aims of this war—the destruction of the Iraqi war machine—and we hope these aims will be achieved. Nevertheless, Israel sees itself as responsible for the safety of its citizens and it must defend them. Therefore, Israel will take any necessary action to secure this aim.

[Qital] Nahman, during our attempts to contact you, our correspondent reported an item that was broadcast on Radio Iraq, to the effect that all their missile launchers were safely returned to base. The obvious question is whether the Americans are still using all possible force against these Iraqi launchers?

[Shay] They are not using all the military force that is possible. They are using a part of it. Not a small part, something between one-third and one-quarter are invested in western Iraq and in the areas of the H-2 and H-3 airfields where the stationary and mobile missile launchers are located and from where Iraq launches its missiles at Israel. We know that the U.S. forces are doing that. They are aware of the distress that Israel has been feeling in recent days. They are really making an effort to eliminate the launchers on the ground. This is not easy, they are a difficult target. These missiles by nature are mobile, they easily switch locations, and it is very hard to find them. We know, however, that the U.S. and allied attacks on this area continue.

[Shilon] Thank you IDF spokesman Nahman Shay.

Over 1,000 Apartments Damaged

TA2601121591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1105 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Twenty-one of the total number of people wounded in all the missile attacks to date are still hospitalized in central Israel. Most sustained slight injuries and will be released in the coming days. [passage omitted]

It now appears that over 1,000 apartments in the Dan District were damaged in last night's missile attack. Many were only slightly damaged, while two collapsed from the missile hits. Two other houses which were severely damaged will be demolished by the municipal authorities. [passage omitted]

Shomron Interviewed on Attack

TA2501191391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1809 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Interview with Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in the Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Text] [Shlonsky] We have the chief of staff in our Tel Aviv studio. Good evening.

[Shomron] Good evening.

[Shlonsky] Can you tell us this evening how many missiles were launched at Israel, how many were interctepted, and how many casualties there are?

[Shomron] We estimate that seven missiles were fired tonight. I would like to say that up to now over 20 missiles have been fired altogether. I would like to take this opportunity to express our condolonces to the bereaved families and send get-well wishes to the people still hospitalized.

[Shlonsky] You are referring to the previous attacks?

[Shomron] That is correct.

[Shlonsky] Can you now give as details about today's attacks, and how many Scuds were hit by the Patriots, in your evaluation?

[Shomron] I believe that most of the missiles were hit by the Patriots, but as we know, there are parts which fall—sometimes this can be the warhead—therefore, it is hard for me to know exactly what caused injuries to the people. There are a number of casualties. We will know more later and make all the information public.

[Shlonsky] Are most of the casualties caused from the Scud debris or from the Patriot?

[Shomron] No, not from the Patriot. With your permission I would also like to say something, as you said before, about the issue of restraint. I would like to say that our mentality, our combat doctrine, our security concept all say that war must be brought to the territory of the enemy as soon as possible and a quick victory gained. It is different this time. We are not facing this alone, for better or for worse. The United States and its coalition partners are fighting in the Gulf, and as we see, the target is not just to get the Iraqi Army out of Kuwait. The target is the destruction of the Iraqi war machine, which from our viewpoint is of supreme importance in the long run.

[Shlonsky] What you are in fact saying is: Give the Americans time to do the job, which in the long run is also for our own benefit.

[Shomron] That is right. There is no doubt that we have the capibility to carry out speedy and very harsh retaliation. We said that from the start. But as long as the home front shows true endurance, which it has done up until now—and I have high esteem for it in doing that—it permits the political echelon to show flexibility in its decisionmaking between what is urgent and painful and what is important in the long run and will influence the entire Middle East.

[Shlonsky] Chief of Staff, can you tell us this evening how many mobile launchers Saddam Husayn still has? The issue of chemical weapons was again raised this week. Do we have new information about chemical weapons which we did not have in previous weeks?

[Shomron] Look, we do not have any new information. I would not like to guess how many launchers there still are. There are mobile launchers, there are even a number of undamaged stationary launchers, and there are certainly missiles. The United States is investing great efforts in locating the launchers and preventing any missile firings at us, just as it is trying to prevent firings at Saudi Arabia. I would, however, like to say that it takes time. The United States is a superpower. Any attempt to judge its actions within an Israeli perspective is wrong. Their diplomatic and political clock ticks differently. They have logisitical staying power, they work thoroughly, they do not rush, they avoid casualties, and they will achieve all the targets they set themselves, at their own pace of course.

[Shlonsky] Chief of Staff, does the military echelon feel pressure from the political echelon or from the public to retaliate or is what you are saying also acceptable to the political echelon?

[Shomron] We frequently, almost daily, conduct public opinion polls. Based on those, the great majority believes the policy of restraint is correct. I want to add, however, that it is restraint based on strength. We have the ability to retaliate and to do it harshly, but we also have a long-term interest, and the public apparently understands the dilemma and thinks in rational terms about a long-term solution.

[Shlonsky] This week both you and the defense minister said twice that it is not a question of whether we will retaliate or not; we will retaliate, it is just a question of when. Is that position still valid?

[Shomron] That is certainly the State of Israel's position, which was made unequivocally clear by the prime minister, the defense minister, and myself.

Reportage on 26 Jan Scud Missile Attack

No Casualties Reported

NC2601211891 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] An all clear signal was sounded all over the country about 15 minutes ago following two missile attacks from Iraqi territory. What is known so far is that there were no casualties as a result of these attacks. The first siren was sounded about one hour ago and another was sounded about 20 minutes later.

IDF spokesman Brigadier General Nahman Shay said that a number of Scud missiles were fired at Israel, and a number of Patriot missiles were fired at them. As already stated, there are no reports of casualties, and searches are continuing all over the country. The public is requested not to obstruct the security forces in their search operations.

Damage Slight

TA2601232091 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 2300 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] It seems that all the Scud missiles that were fired at Israel this evening were intercepted. Nevertheless, pieces from the missile that were intercepted fell in various areas, including Arab villages. There have been reports of shattered windows in the north.

The sixth missile attack on Israel occurred at 2200 [2000 GMT] and a short while after that. All the missiles were outfitted with conventional warheads. After the attack, the security forces conducted searches.

Arens Calls for Long-Term View of Situation

TA2601213791 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1917 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky and David Witzthum—live in the studio]

[Text] [Shlonsky] About seven or eight Scuds landed in Israel yesterday, some of which were hit by Patriot missiles. Are we satisfied with the operation of the Patriot missiles in Israel? Do they really hit and destroy Scud missiles?

[Arens] Seven, perhaps eight, Scuds were fired at us. The Patriot missiles managed to intercept some of them, while the rest fell on Israeli soil as all Israeli citizens, particularly those in the Dan District, realize only too well. The Patriots do not provide a foolproof answer to the danger of missiles. The crews operating them are in the process of improving their skills. We hope for better results, but we should not count on the Patriot missiles to provide us with immunity.

[Shlonsky] Does this mean that there is a problem with the crews and the time they are taking to learn how to operate the missiles, or that there is a technical problem with the Patriots which prevent them, even when they hit, from fully destroying the Scuds?

[Arens] First of all, even when best operated, the Patriot does not provide a foolproof answer—and we have known this all along. We are now familiarizing ourselves with the unique problems concerning the interception of Scud missiles. Therefore, I assume the operation of the

Patriot missiles will improve. But, as I said before, they will not provide 100-percent immunity.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Arens, what is the feedback you get from the public in the wake of the fifth missile attack on Israel? Do you feel some sort of pressure to change Israel's policy of restraint and containment?

[Arens] I must admit I do not feel such pressure, and I think this does honor to the Israeli people who have been experiencing difficult conditions in this war's first line of fire. We have been at a state of war for the past 10 days with men, women, and children—not the Army at this stage—in the first line of fire. Nevertheless, our public apparently realizes the vast complexity of the problems we are facing, that the decisions we are called upon to make are of a strategic nature, and that notwithstanding our impulse to react—which I also feel—we must take a long-term view of the situation.

[Shlonsky] The mayor of Tel Aviv today called residents leaving the city, deserters. Do you share his view?

[Arens] I would not call those staying and those leaving names. All in all, I think it would be hard to find another example in the world of the kind of behavior our people have shown under conditions that no one foresaw a few months ago, or was prepared for some years ago.

[Shlonsky] Sir, Saddam Husayn has been threatening, in the last few days and today in particular, that he has some secret weapon with which he will yet surprise Israel. Do we know what he is talking about? Is it a chemical, biological, or perhaps some other weapon, or is it just another threat? After all, so far he has more or less lived up to all of his threats.

[Arens] I would not go on the assumption that he is capable of fulfilling all his threats, but we know that he has chemical weapons since he used them on Iran. We have no certainty that he has chemical warheads with which to outfit the Scud missiles, but we take such a possibility into consideration. This is the reason why each of us walks around carrying a gas mask and has sealed up a room in his home. We do not know that Saddam has any weapons beyond that, and I would doubt that he has.

[Witzthum] Does the improvement in our security [as heard] situation, as evidenced by the visit of European figures over the weekend, also mean aid to meet our security needs?

[Arens] I assume you mean our political situation, but let me tell you that at this moment, our security situation is what concerns us. I do not make light of improvements in the political sphere. We have admittedly attained sympathy and support, but whenever Israel has been in a difficult situation, when people in Israel have been hurt, we have always been lavished with the sympathy and empathy of people who would criticize us on normal days. Well, this is what the world is like; it is hard to be a Jew.

[Witzthum] Thanks to the defense minister and to Moshe Shlonsky.

Foreign Minister on German Patriots, Restraint

TA2501203091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Shlomo Ganor at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem; date not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Levi] There is a great deal of pure identifying with Israel, and there is also a great feeling of repentance and self-excoriation for the fact that several months ago, when Israel warned of the danger posed by Baghdad, of Saddam Husayn's intentions, about the tremendous arsenal in his possession, and about the threats he had made to Israel's very existence—everyone said that nothing would happen and that we had nothing to worry about. Here we find ourselves being bombarded. We are in danger, and this identifying—coming, by the way, from all these parties—should also be taken as a warning for the future and a lever for strengthening the relations between those countries and Israel.

[Ganor] And did you receive the German foreign minister in the framework of strengthening those relations? Will German Patriot missiles be stationed in Israel?

[Levi] We held talks with Mr. Genscher about issues that are vital to Israel. Within this framework he asked whether the Patriot is an effective weapon, or in other words, an anti-missile-missile that has proven its mettle, and whether we are satisfied with it? I said that we were satisfied. When he asked me whether we could use some, my response was a definite yes. He said that he was willing to examine in a favorable light—together with the chancellor—the possibility of sending Patriot missiles to Israel; however, contrary to what was published, we did not speak of German teams at all. Certainly not! No, neither he nor I raised such a possibility. We only spoke about the system itself, about the fact that the system was essential. Let us hope that our talks on those issues will be concluded expeditiously.

[Ganor] Going back to the issue of identifying. Do you consider the EC's decision to renew cooperation with Israel a sign of the times?

[Levi] By its decision to revoke the sanctions, the EC has amended an injustice toward Israel. Now, the economic and scientific cooperation will grow increasingly stronger, and I am happy for that.

[Ganor] Mr. Foreign Minister, how do U.S.-Israeli relations stand upon the conclusion of Eagleburger's talks here?

[Levi] First of all, we have a higher level of cooperation. Secondly, there is greater understanding of Israel's needs. Thirdly, there is coordination. The decisions that were unanimously adopted—both in the Senate and in the House of Representatives—to stand by Israel's side and to help and support Israel. All these prove the rightness of our way, the wisdom of the policy we have adopted, and above all the understanding of Israel's situation and the desire to strengthen it.

[Ganor] Mr. Levi, are you implying that restraint is the correct policy?

[Levi] No, I do not call it restraint. I call it prudence, and looking at the entire picture. Every development must be taken into account, so that if we do take action it will be effective, and so that we will be prepared for any eventuality. The government enjoys a lot of credit with the people. We have seen this. The people have confidence in their government. We have also witnessed the behavior of the opposition; we have sensed the general mood. I think we control every step, are aware of every detail, consider every aspect, and we will react when we have to. The decision is ours to make and we have taken every aspect into account.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Iraqi Attacks

PM2501152091 Paris LE FIGARO in French 24 Jan 91 p 5

[Interview with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by Pierre Rousselin in Jerusalem—date not given]

[Text] Jerusalem—[Rousselin] Will Israel respond after last night's lethal attack?

[Netanyahu] Jews cannot be attacked with impunity. Since the creation of the Jewish state, Israel has always responded to attacks on it. There is no doubt that we will take action. We will take action against the targets, with the means, and at a time which we choose.

[Rousselin] Have you promised to coordinate any possible action with the Americans?

[Netanyahu] We are in constant consultation. These consultations are very close.

[Rousselin] Are you disappointed by the performance of the Patriot antimissile missiles?

[Netanyahu] We have always said that the Patriots could not provide a complete guarantee. They can reduce the threat but cannot eliminate it. We are very grateful to the United States for giving us those batteries and training our men to operate them. This is a temporary situation, because our policy has not changed. It is the Israelis who defend their own country.

[Rousselin] France's policy in the Gulf crisis has been strongly criticized in Israel. What is your feeling?

[Netanyahu] We have been very disappointed by the idea which has emerged in France about an international conference and the link which has been established between Iraq and Israel, between Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait and Israel's presence in the territories. There is no parallel. Saddam entered Kuwait by an act of unprovoked aggression. Israel entered the territories because of an unprovoked act of aggression against us. Those territories were used by the Arabs as a springboard for an attempt to eliminate us.

We prevented that by a war of self-defense. If somebody eliminates, even partly, the fundamental difference between a flagrant aggression and an act of legitimate self-defense, he encourages further aggressions.

France: A Positive Development

[Rousselin] Has France's attitude reassured you since the start of hostilities?

[Netanyahu] It is a positive development. We hope that it is a permanent change.

[Rousselin] Do you have proof that French or German companies violated the embargo on Iraq?

[Netanyahu] No. We wanted to check it. And with regard to the German companies, the Bonn Government has given us detailed answers. We have checked each individual case and, as far as the German companies are concerned as far as we know, Saddam Husayn is not receiving nonconventional technology or weapons.

[Rousselin] Can you say the same about French companies?

[Netanyahu] We have not made such complete checks, at least not through official channels. But, as you can imagine, we are following up this matter by various means.

Official on Casualty Toll From Beginning of War

TA2601185591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1750 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe—live]

[Text] Here is some data provided by Brigadier General Yehuda Danon, the chief medical officer, summing up the casualty toll in the last nine days. Two people have been directly killed by missiles, one by a direct hit and the other by Scud shrapnel, and 204 have been injured. Over 1,000 have checked into hospitals for minor treatment involving light injuries, misuse of gas masks, injection of Atropine, consultations, shock, etc. Over 4,000 people have been evacuated from damaged homes. Except for one soldier who was slightly injured while on home leave, all the casualties have been civilians, including 30 children and over 110 adults over the age of 65.

Gen. Danon believes there is no reason to change the instructions concerning the use of sealed rooms, since he is not sure that upon hearing the siren there would be enough time to proceed to the bomb shelters. He remarked that all injuries have been caused by Scud shrapnel.

The chief medical officer went on to say that each incident is thoroughly investigated. All casualties in yesterday's missile attack were caused by Scud shrapnel or explosions. He noted that there is full cooperation between the Magen David Adom first-aid service, hospitals, the Army, and the Fire Brigade. He said there are teams whose job is to check to see if the attack is possibly a chemical one. These teams start operating as soon as they learn about a missile hit. Their check lasts for 10 to 12 minutes, and only after it has been conducted two to three times do they give the order to remove the gas masks. They then proceed to thoroughly check the missile strike areas so as to be able to tell people that they are allowed to leave their sealed rooms.

Israeli, Palestinian Arab Reactions to Missiles

TA2601222891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1950 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The secretariat of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils has invited Jews whose homes were damaged by the missile attacks to be the guests of the Arab settlements. This was reported by our correspondent Gil Sadan. In a special meeting the secretariat held today in Shefar'am a resolution was adopted which equates the missile attacks on Israel to the bombardments of Iraq. The secretariat's resolution states that negotiations and an international conference are the only frameworks to resolve the regional problems. The secretariat also noted its objection to the bombardments of Iraq and the missile attacks on Israel.

The 10-day curfew remains in effect in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Our correspondent Shlomo Arad points out that these areas were proclaimed a military zone. Military sources have reported that there were no disturbances in those territories today. The locals were allowed to leave their homes and purchase foodstuffs.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 2200 GMT on 26 January adds that "after the residents of the territories got wind of the Scud attack on Israel, they went up on the rooftops and started shouting 'Allahu akbar' (God is great) and cheered Saddam Husayn." The report also says that "three pharmaceutical plants from the Ramallah region resumed operation today."]

Rocard Telephones Shamir, Expresses Solidarity

TA2601101191 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] French Prime Minister Michel Rocard telephoned Prime Minister Shamir this morning to express solidarity. He said that at this hour, he, his government, and the French people stand at Israel's side.

Mr. Shamir expressed hope for closer relations with France. Mr. Rocard noted that he and his countrymen feel great sympathy toward Israel and that he would have been glad to say this to the prime minister in person. This was reported by our political correspondent Arye Golan.

Yafo Imam Assassinated After Friday Prayers

NC2501204291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] The imam of the biggest mosque in Yafo and his brother were assassinated today while walking through one of the streets of the city after Friday prayers.

According to Israeli police, three anonymous masked men opened fire with automatic weapons from inside their car on the imam and his brother, who were killed instantaneously. Israeli police added that they have arrested three people as suspects in this assassination.

Saudi Paper Claims Scud Missiles Hidden in Jordan

NC2801085991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0842 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Jan (MENA)—The Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has disclosed that there are depots for Iraqi Scud missiles inside Jordanian territory on the borders with Iraq. In today's edition, the paper cites informed diplomatic sources as saying that these missiles are transported at night to Iraqi territory in refrigerated trucks to conceal them from satellites monitoring the military operations theater.

25 Jan Anti-U.S. Demonstrations Reported

NC2601125391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jan 91 p 3

[By 'Abdallah Hasanat in Amman and Maryam M. Shahin in al-Baq'ah]

[Text] About 200 young people, shouting slogans of support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and urging him to strike at Tel Aviv, headed for the U.S. embassy after Friday prayers yesterday. Half an hour later and less than a kilometre from the al-Husayni Mosque in downtown Amman, where the march originated, an equal number of police officers persuaded the marchers to reverse course.

The police force, composed of officers in constant contact with their headquarter through walkie-talkies, plainclothes policemen with notebooks, and uniformed policemen with wooden clubs, escorted the protesters from the minute they gathered immediately after worshippers left the mosque.

At the centre of the city the police attempted to divert the march away from the Wadi al-Sir street that leads to Jabal Amman, and both the Iraqi and U.S. embassies, towards al-Salt road leading to the al-'Abdali bus terminal. But the marchers pushed their way through shouting "Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar."

When police stopped the marchers at the foot of Jabal Amman climb, a bearded demonstrator argued that the Americans were responsible for the war against Iraq and for the death of Palestinian children in the West Bank and Gaza. The police officer in charge shouted that while the people of Jordan were fully behind Iraq there was no reason for anyone to do harm to any foreigner or foreign mission since "Iraq itself did not close nor attack the American embassy" in Baghdad.

After some more haggling with the police, the demonstrator, accompannied by the police, journalists and TV crews and photographers headed back towards al-Husayni Mosque and there dispersed.

In the al-Baq'ah refugee camp, some 800 demonstrators took part in a march protesting the American-led war against Iraq. Demonstrators chanted pro-Iraq, anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans.

Most of the marchers appeared to be followers of the relatively small Islamic Jihad (Bayt al-Maqdis) group led by Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi who lives in Amman.

Al-Baq'ah camp is the poorest and largest of all Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan. It has a population of approximately 120,000 people, most of which are supporters of the various factions of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), as well as the Gaza-based Palestinian Resistance Movement, Hamas. While many camp onlookers shouted pro-PLO slogans, no PLO supporters were evident in Friday's rally.

The demonstration was an apparent effort to get media attention, since the group had invited more than 30 television, radio and print journalists to attend the event. During his Friday sermon at Imam 'Ali Mosque in the centre of the camp, al-Tamimi asked participants in the march to be cordial to the invited journalists.

Calls for holy war and attacks on Israel as well as verbal mocking of the governments of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United States characterised the rally.

While demonstrators marched down the narrow, muddy roads of the camp, built after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, many waved anti-Western placards denouncing the United States for its violent policies in the Gulf in particular and the Middle East in general.

While there have been continued calls for a holy war against the Americans and the Israelis by Islamic groups in Jordan, none of the demonstrators who spoke to the Jordan Times Friday said that the Kingdom should begin such a war.

Phrases like "If we were attacked we will defend ourselves," and "If it must be war then let it be," seemed to convey the message that while supporting Iraq in its war against foreign aggression, Jordanians and Palestinians are not willing to enter an armed conflict unless they were forced to do so.

"We will fight if we are attacked," said a 24-year-old Palestinian demonstrator named Taysir.

The mosque preacher called on members of the Lower House of Parliament to press for arming the population in preparation for a holy war. Many Jordanians, however, feel that arming the whole population may not be necessary since many citizens are already members of the People's Army or are serving in the country's armed forces.

"We are against injustice, and we are the victims of a thousand injustices and if there is no peaceful solution we are willing to fight for our rights," one participant in Friday's rally summed it up.

King Husayn Interviewed by Spanish Journalists

LD2701212491 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Correspondent Frank Sevilla's report on news conference granted by King Husayn to Spanish journalists in Amman on 27 January; Husayn's remarks in English—recorded]

[Sevilla] King Husayn said that the war in global terms will not be won by anybody but that we will all lose. The Jordanian king again condemned the language of arms and expressed his hope that peace will be attained, although he was not very optimistic about this. These statements were made, as you said, by King Husayn in a news conference limited to Spanish journalists in Amman. The Jordanian monarch recalled the friendship between Spain and Jordan, but did not want to give his opinion on Spain's position on the crisis.

[Husayn] I cannot comment on the position of the Spanish Government or Spain's.

[Sevilla] King Husayn repeated his belief that some had put more effort into solving the crisis through the military option rather than the political one. He said that it would only be in the future when people will be able to assess who had made a mistake, although the Jordanian king believes that many have made mistakes. He expressed his belief that nobody wins with this war.

[Husayn] I think that war will mean a limited victory, but in the end nobody will win; we all lose.

[Sevilla] King Husayn said he intends to carry out efforts to (?stop) the war, saying that Jordan is in the coalition for peace. The Jordanian king also repeated that he would defend his territory from any aggression, and replied briefly to the question of under what circumstances Jordan would take part in the war:

[Husayn] If Jordan is attacked, or our territory or air space is violated by either side.

[Sevilla] Finally, King Husayn refused to condemn Iraqi attacks on Israel, justifying himself on the present state of the conflict, although he said that in his opinion nobody should attack anybody.

Further on Interview

PA2701233991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2123 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 27 Jan (EFE)—Jordan's King Husayn stated today that he hopes a peaceful solution will be found to the war in the Gulf, but he said he is not optimistic.

Speaking to Spanish newsmen who are following the evolution of the conflict from the capital of Jordan, the monarch emphasized the ties that have long joined Jordan and Spain and said he did not wish to comment on the position of the Spanish Government.

The king said that Jordan will only join the war "to defend our territory and airspace from any aggression, regardless of where it comes from."

King Husayn added: "I hope the coalition will be strengthened for the sake of peace, to save lives, and to prevent wounds that take a long time to heal."

The Jordanian king, who looked very tired, said that he is "sad to see that some of our fears have materialized." He took note of "the ecological disaster, in addition to the large-scale human tragedy, that is taking place in one of the main energy producing areas, which will also mean an economic disaster."

After stating that Jordan has carried out all efforts it could find for a peaceful solution, he condemned the fact that in this conflict more efforts have been made "for the use of military means than for finding a diplomatic solution."

The monarch said that it is necessary to halt the hostilities and to redouble efforts for finding a peaceful solution. "It is necessary that the whole world does something before it is too late, because there will not be any winners in this war. Everyone will lose."

When asked about the difference between the Jordanian people's show of support for Iraq and his more moderate stand, he said: "I have never been prouder of the unity, democracy, and freedom there is in Jordan."

He added: "We are not neutral in defending peace, and we will defend our territory and our airspace because we do not want it to become a battlefield."

The king said that ever since the war began on 17 January, he has not talked with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn nor has he had any contact, at any level, with Baghdad.

King on Consequences of War, Relations With Tehran

NC2701201391 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn said a serious crisis and a war coalition now exist. However, we belong to the peace coalition, he added. In a meeting with representatives of the French press in Amman this evening, his majesty said: We do not want anyone to cross our airspace from any side or for any reason; nor do we want anyone to violate our territory.

Regarding our feelings about the current developments, he added, they are Arab feelings toward Arabs, and Muslim feelings toward Muslims.

The king said: We tried our best to evade this disaster and resolve it peacefully, and we warned against the dangers to human and environmental life in this region as a result of military confrontation. He added that the consequences may affect a broader area. What we warned of has occurred, and we feel that a peaceful solution was possible in this region, which was long ignored by the world, his majesty added. He expressed the hope that it is still not too late, and said it is our duty to continue our efforts.

Asked about the resumption of Jordanian-Iranian relations, his majesty expressed happiness at the restoration of these relations, and noted that the foreign minister is visiting Iran. He expressed hope that future relations with Iran will be founded on mutual confidence. Asked about a cease-fire in the Gulf, his majesty expressed hope that the military operations will stop. If this is achieved, he said, we will act to address the issue of removing mass destruction weapons and move toward an era of peace and security.

His majesty referred to the democratic life in Jordan, and said that it will continue where the atmosphere of tolerance and cooperation prevails. Internal dialogue, he said, is good and constructive, and the National Charter addresses all internal and external situations.

Asked about French policy in the region, his majesty said: We have always maintained the best relations with France—relations based on mutual confidence and friendship. He expressed confidence that France will continue to work for peace, and said we are in agreement with France concerning several issues. Asked whether Jordan can hold out in the face of the various pressures it is facing, His Majesty King Husayn said Jordanians are holding fast, and Jordan has a long history of service to the Arab nation. Jordan has also gone through difficult times, and when things become clear, many will realize that their positions against Jordan were wrong. His majesty explained: We are with the world in principle, but we seek peace, not destruction, and if this is the price we have to pay, then we will willingly pay it.

Further on King's Remarks

NC2701182291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Stating that he believes it is not too late to stop the Gulf war, King Husayn of Jordan has reiterated the need for a cease-fire to give diplomacy and political action a chance to solve the Gulf problem peacefully as part of a solution to the other problems in the region. Speaking to representatives of the French press in Amman, King Husayn repeated his country's determination to prevent any infiltration of its airspace or aggression on its territory from any side.

Asked about the possibility of dragging Jordan into the war, King Husayn said: I do not know, but we are determined to defend our land while still being committed to peace. The king acknowledged that his country is being punished by some Arab countries over its position on the Gulf crisis. All that Jordan really wants, explained the king, is to achieve peace and spare the region destruction.

Stressing that he has a clear conscience, the king said that many will regret their acts against Jordan when the truth comes out. But if this is the price we must pay, the king said, then we are paying it courageously and proudly.

Prince 'Abdallah Hails Algerian Stance

LD2501223391 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Interview with Prince 'Abdallah in Amman on 24 January by "special correspondent"—recorded]

[Text] [Prince 'Abdallah] Certainly the impact of the positions taken by the Algerian people, by the Algerian Government, by the Algerian leadership, by the Algerian president who, as we very well know, has been working for months to seek a peaceful solution that tragedy of the Gulf war, the impact was not only positive but was also expected by the Jordanian people [word indistinct]. I do not say that to make a joke, it is not a time for congratulations, but in this world which has almost lost objectivity and reason, in this world where we can only observe a war psychosis, it was undoubtedly a position that was very welcome—but is anybody listening to us?

[Correspondent] Your highness, Jordan launched an initiative for a peaceful solution as soon as the Gulf crisis began. War started last week and King Husayn said he was ready to work even more to stop that war. Can we see the first signs of any sort of arrangement and, for example, does Jordan have a special plan for a solution to that war?

['Abdallah] There is the Islamic conference on one side, there are the nonaligned countries, in particular Yugoslavia and India on the other, which put forward in the [UN] General Assembly—that is to say in a diplomatic context—the possibility of a joint appeal for a cease-fire. Unfortunatley it was the U.S. press which said a few days ago that this is only an appeal for a one-sided moratorium and the United States does not accept a one-sided moratorium or end to these hostilities. But simultaneously when one does speak about human losses, but when one does speak about the civilians in Baghdad, in Faluja, when we speak about the destruction of the chemical and nuclear bombs [as heard], I ask myself if there is any radiation, if there is a threat to the Iraqi people. Who can say it? For the time being, it seems to me that the United States and the coalition try only to carry on with their aim, as President Chadi said, to destroy the Iraqi military machine.

[Correspondent] Your highness, Turkey in allowing the forces allied with the United States to use bases existing on its territory becomes a party to that war. What are the means, the best means to put pressure on Turkey which is Iraq's neighbor so as to reduce the risks of escalation?

['Abdallah] Listen my dear friend, there is a crisis crescent which starts in Morocco and which ends in Afghanistan. You have on one side perennial conflicts: the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Gulf, Lebanon. On the other side you have endemic problems: Cyprus, Macedonia, Kosovo, Ceuta-Melilla, Gibraltar. And I ask myself if Turkey as a NATO country will be a part of NATO's new front. For years we have been speaking of a Middle East outside the NATO area but if it is the intention of NATO to make Turkey a garrison for a NATO front, I believe that it will be a misfortune. We have expressed several times to our Turkish friends, our Turkish brothers, that is to the Turkish parliament, to the Turkish people, and even to the Turkish leaders. What we expect from Turkey is that Turkey becomes part of that Middle East region, a Muslim region. But for the time being, we can only observe realpolitik from the [Turkish] position taken.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Gulf, U.S. Ties

NC2601205391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Interview with Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri by correspondent Randah Habib in Amman on 26 January—recorded]

[Text] [Habib] Mr. Minister, following the restoration of diplomatic ties between Jordan and Iran, what steps will be taken to consolidate relations between the two countries?

[Al-Masri] The first step in this direction is the visit that I will pay to Tehran to discuss the areas for cooperation between us. I think that at this particular stage there are many areas, including the political one, for cooperation. It seems to me that we are in agreement that something should be done toward bringing about a cease-fire in Iraq and then moving toward political efforts.

Jordan and Iran are two countries bordering Iraq. Stability and the possibility of affecting the course of events are topical issues, particularly if Jordan and Iran cooperate with other Arab, nonaligned, and Islamic nations in calling for stability in the region, for an end to the fighting, and for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf.

[Habib] When will you go to Iran?

[Al-Masri] Tomorrow, Sunday.

[Habib] Your excellency, Jordan is making international efforts to stop the fighting in the Gulf. Yesterday, King Husayn held talks with the Pakistani prime minister, who has proposals for ending the war. How far did efforts in this direction go?

[Al-Masri] Jordan has made numerous efforts in this respect, including consultations with Arab, nonaligned, and even European countries. These efforts were particularly active in the United Nations. The aim of these efforts is to create an atmosphere conducive to a cease-fire arranged by the UN Security Council or the United Nations. Regrettably, there has been resistance by many countries, particularly the United States and Europe, to this idea, in that withdrawal or the announcement of withdrawal should precede a cease-fire.

[Habib] More than one week has passed since the outbreak of fighting and during that time Jordan has committed itself to a policy of military nonintervention. The possibility of Jordan's being dragged into war cannot be ruled out, however. What, in your opinion, are the factors that may lead to Jordan's involvement in the war?

[Al-Masri] Our basic attitude remains that we should stay away from that sphere and that matter. However, the fact is that the region is simmering. Military operations are under way. There is a destructive war waged against Iraq. We also hear that Israel is threatening to react and to react violently. We do not know what shape Israel's response will take. We also know that Israel has been for some time attempting to end the Palestinian issue in the way that suits its own purposes. Therefore, attempts may be made in the near future to enlarge the scope of the war. However, we are perfectly aware of that situation and in touch with other countries to avoid this problem.

[Habib] How would you describe Jordanian-Syrian, Jordanian- Egyptian, and Jordanian-Saudi relations, knowing that both Cairo and Riyadh took measures against Jordanian citizens?

[Al-Masri] Jordan constantly seeks to improve its ties with all the Arab countries and to maintain these ties at a high level. We are still trying to do that. Regrettably, for the time being we are suffering from a misunderstanding concerning our position and of some problems involving the countries that you have just mentioned. Still, I may say that the relations with Syria are normal and proceeding in a satisfactory manner.

[Habib] How about Saudi Arabia and Egypt?

[Al-Masri] I have just given you the answer for that.

[Habib] Your excellency, it has been mentioned in Washington that the visit of Richard Armitage to Amman failed to produce concrete results. What were the reasons for the U.S. envoy's visit to Jordan at this particular moment, and how do you describe Jordanian-U.S. relations?

[Al-Masri] There are differences of views between Jordan and the United States with regard to the Gulf crisis and several other issues. This is a normal matter that happened also in the past. However, the Armitage visit was given more attention than should have been accorded it. The visit was part of the consultations that take place normally between Jordan and the United States. Such consultations had not taken place at a high level for a long time. This is why Armitage came here—to review ties, to hold consultations, and to exchange views over the Gulf crisis and other issues. Therefore, I do not think that his visit had a specific goal. I have heard much speculation about this visit that I believe was exaggerated in content and motives. The visit was a normal one for us.

[Habib] Thank you, your Excellency.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Tehran With Message

NC2701125391 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman for Tehran today on an official visit to take a written message from His Majesty King Husayn to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. During the two-day visit, Mr. al-Masri will hold talks with senior Iranian officials on bilateral relations, ways to bolster them, developments in the Gulf, and possible efforts to end the destructive war. The minister is accompanied by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Solon Urges Iran To Counter 'U.S. Aggression'

NC2601161691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Lower House of Parliament member Layth Shubaylat Friday called on the Iranian Republic to counter American aggression on Iraq.

In a message he sent to the spiritual leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution 'Ali Khamene'i, Shubaylat said "the great satan (the U.S.) and its allies of devils have occupied the holy places and have used them to launch an aggression on the Muslim people of Iraq."

Shubaylat warned Khamene'i that the U.S. next step will be to hit the Islamic revolution in Iran and to replace it with a secular regime by the use of force.

Muslims are still pinning great hopes on Iran and are still waiting Khamenei's right decision represented in the announcement of Jihad (Islamic holy war) to stop aggression waged on Iraq and to end the occupation of the Islamic holy places in the Arabian Peninsula, he said.

Shubaylat asked Khamene'i, addressing him as the one who describes the U.S. and Israel as the number one enemies of Islam, "is there a difference between the American aggression and the Israeli aggression?"

"The U.S. and Israel are two sides to the same coin... and today we feel the reality of Israel's taking part in the aggression on the Muslims," he said.

Copies of the message were sent by Shubaylat to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, chairman of the preservation of the constitution council Ayatollah Jannati, members of the council and speaker of the Shura Council Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi.

Khamene'i Urged To Confront U.S. in Gulf

NC2601120991 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 26 Jan (JNA)—Deputy Engineer Layth Shubaylat yesterday addressed a message to Imam 'Ali Khamene'i, supreme guide of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. He called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to confront the U.S. aggression against fraternal Iraq. The message said: The forces of the great Satan and his allied satans have occupied the holy land which has been used as a base for the aggression against the Islamic people of Iraq. He stressed that the next phase of the U.S. aggression is to strike at the Islamic revolution in Iran and to attempt to restore secularism in Iran by force. He pointed out that Muslims are still waiting hopefully for the guide of the Islamic Revolution to make a sound decision ordering a jihad against the aggression on Iraq and the land of the Islamic sanctities in the peninsula. He asked: Is there any difference between the U.S. aggression and the Zionist aggression? You are the main propounder of the slogan that America and Israel are the main enemies of Islam and that Israel and America are two sides of the same coin. We feel today that Israel is taking part in the aggression against Muslims.

Pakistani Prime Minister Arrives, Departs

NC2501215091 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in Amman at noon today for a visit of several hours to Jordan as part of a tour of a number of the region's states.

Sharif made a statement saying that his mission aims at discussing ways of attaining peace in the region. He added that he does not have any specific initiative in this regard. He indicated that Pakistan supports the UN and UN Security Council resolutions. He went on to say that Pakistan opposes the annexation by any country of another. He said that to achieve peace, Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait, as he put it. As for the presence of Pakistani troops within the anti-Iraq international coalition, he said that his troops are under the command of the Saudis rather than Americans.

On the Pakistani people's rejection of the U.S. aggression against Iraq, Sharif said: The Pakistani people oppose the shedding of Muslim blood. He appealed to Islamic states to play a role regarding the killing of Muslims and the destruction of their country in Iraq.

[Amman Domestic Service in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 25 January then reports, "Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left Amman this evening following a short visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and held talks with Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

["In a predeparture statement, Sharif said that he discussed with His Majesty King Husayn the war in the

Gulf and ways to reestablish peace in the region. On his country's participation in the U.S.-led alliance, Sharif said this stance is true, noting that his country supports the UN Security Council resolution.

["Sharif expressed the belief that there is still ample time to attain peace in the region."]

Visit 'Arouses Suspicion'

NC2601170691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Article by the "political affairs editor"]

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is touring the region. He was quoted as saying that the objective of his tour is to search for a political solution to the Gulf crisis based on UN Security Council resolutions. The Pakistani official added to this an emotional objective—his concern and pity for great Iraq, which is confronting the American-Zionist-Crusader alliance. This is the description we gave to this alliance, but because the Pakistani Government is a party to this alliance, it would be unreasonable for it to give it the right description.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif's tour forces us to recall all the suspicious moves that preceded the allies' military aggression against Iraq, which were aimed at telling the world that Iraq rejects the UN Security Council resolutions and all mediation and refuses to respond to the suspicious and preplanned resolutions of the Arab League Council and the emergency Cairo summit.

Based on this, we find ourselves with an official Pakistani mission, whose nature is suspicious. The parties to the aggressive alliance did not criticize this mission. Moreover, though the Arab Maghreb states' call on the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities was denounced and rejected, this mission was not denounced or rejected. More important and even clearer is that Pakistan cannot act as a mediator while it is still part of this alliance and while part of its army has joined this alliance. In light of this, it does not differ from the United States, France, Britain, or any other state in the American-Zionist-Crusader alliance.

The objective of Nawaz Sharif's tour is to contain the wrath of the Muslim Pakistani people and to alleviate this escalating wrath by expressing concern about reaching a political settlement of the Gulf crisis that would be in accordance with American specifications and that is not based on respect for and full implementation of the international legitimacy regarding all the Middle East issues, particularly the Palestine question, which the Muslim Pakistani people consider as one of their most important issues.

Moreover, the attempt to shed crocodile tears over great Iraq and for the Pakistani official to express concern about it is part of a psychological war that has already failed. Iraq has stood fast and will continue to do so in the face of the American-Zionist-Crusader onslaught. The U.S. President and all his allies, including official Pakistan, were disappointed with the failure of their hopes to destroy Iraq. Their forces on the land of our sanctities and against the Arab and Islamic nations is a crime, and all parties to it will pay a heavy price. The Pakistani officials will not escape the wrath of the Muslim people, who are now roaring against the fascist alliance, demanding the withdrawal of their sons from its ranks, and calling for a brave stand from Iraq and the Iraqis in their confrontation of the colonialist circles' attempt to impose hegemony over the Arab homeland, all the Islamic peoples, all our destinies, and our dignity and right to progress, as well as the alliance's exploitation of our wealth to the detriment the present and future generations.

Nawaz Sharif's tour is not innocent. However, it will not lead to anything, especially since the battlefield and the ability of right and faith to defeat falsehood, the infidels, and fascism will be the judge.

Saudis Reportedly Ban Entry of Jordanians

NC2501120691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—The Saudi authorities have decided to ban Jordanian, Palestinian, Yemeni, Iraqi, and Sudanese nationals from entering Saudi territory even if they have valid entry visas.

The authorities informed Arab and international airline companies that effective yesterday, 24 January, they would be responsible for returning any passenger belonging to any of these nationalities upon his arrival at a Saudi airport.

Ministry Denies Jordanians Refused Entry to Syria

JN2801103891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Ministry of Interior has denied knowledge of 30 Jordanians being turned back from the Syrian border as was reported by news agencies Sunday.

Reuters news agency said Syria refused entry of at least 30 Jordanians in an apparent show of anger over criticism in some Jordanian newspapers over the involvement in the Gulf war.

The agency, which quoted an official Jordanian source for the report, said that travellers were turned back from the southern border post of Dar'a after trying to enter from Jordan. Other Jordanians had abandoned the crossing until the situation was clear, the agency said.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, the Public Security Department's Aliens and Border Department said it had no knowledge of the incident either. Reuter quoted a Syrian embassy official in Amman as denying the report and maintaining that travel requirements had not been changed.

"Syria will always keep its door open for all Arabs," the embassy official said.

The Syrian media had reacted angrily to criticism from Jordanian parliamentarians and newspapers over Syria's policy on the Gulf war and the border incident was interpreted by observers here as linked to the Jordanian media's criticism of the Syrian stand.

Earlier, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, retracted a report quoting an Israeli army radio as saying that demonstrations swept Syrian towns in protest against Syria's involvement and the ongoing aggression on Iraq.

Petra said later "since it was not the agency's policy to quote Israeli sources, it was cancelling the report."

Iraq Maintains 'Almost Total Closure' of Border

NC2501124891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 91 pp 1, 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P. V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Iraq maintained an almost total closure of its border with Jordan and various officials and informed sources offered conflicting accounts of the reasons behind the surprise Iraqi move, which appeared to have gone into effect midnight Tuesday.

Very few people—accountable in dozens—arrived at the Jordanian border post of al-Ruwayshid by late Thursday, sources at the frontier said.

Earlier, officials said they were informed by travellers that several thousand people were stranded at the Iraqi border post of Tirbil, 70 kilometres from al-Ruwayshid, and there was no immediate explanation to what appeared to be the selective approach the Iraqis have adopted in permitting border crossing.

Several reasons or theories were offered by various sources. These included:

—The Iraqis clamped down on the border shortly after a bomb or missile attack by the allied forces killed three members of a bedouin family. Two small girls died on the spot and the other died on his way to hospital on the Jordanian side early Wednesday. Another wounded member of the family was undergoing treatment at al-Ruwayshid.

—The Iraqis had sealed off the border after one or several allied airmen shot down by Iraqi defences had eluded capture.

—The Iraqi authorities were discouraging people to drive across the border in view of an acute shortage of fuel in the country.

(A blanket suspension of all sale of fuel oil went into effect throughout Iraq Thursday in line with an Iraqi oil ministry order. Many of Iraq's big refineries are believed to have been hit in the allied bombardment since Thursday, thus creating a shortage of fuel oil).

—According to Jordanian travellers quoted by Reuters in a dispatch from al-Ruwayshid, Iraqi border officials are warning people that want to get into Iraq that they would be allowed in but would not be permitted to depart.

"They told us 'if you want to cross you have to stay inside—you can't leave,'" said a taxi driver quoted by Reuters. The agency said the driver had returned to al-Ruwayshid after being given the warning.

A senior security source who confirmed that "a few dozen people" had crossed into Jordan by late Wednesday said: "At this point all I can tell you is that there is an almost total closure of the border from the Iraqi side. We have not been formally notified of any closure. We hope things would clear by themselves by tomorrow."

Iraqi embassy officials in Amman either flatly denied there was a closure of the border or declined comment.

The Iraqi move at Tirbil leaves Iran as the only refuge for people leaving the war theatre after Iraq closed its frontier with Turkey last week. The Iraqi-Syrian frontier has been sealed off since 1978. Syrian nationals leaving Iraq have to transit through Jordan.

Some travellers who arrived here Monday said the Iraqis were wary of allowing people to cross to Iran.

A group of over 300 Indians who wanted to cross into Iran Saturday was turned back by the Iraqis after several hours of wait at the Iraqi-Iranian border. The groups had to criss-cross through Iraq to reach Tirbil and cross to Jordan. They remained at the al-Azraq transit camp awaiting homeward flights, embassy officials said.

There was no indication meanwhile of the nationalities of the people waiting to cross into Jordan from Tirbil, but relief officials said most of them were Egyptian and Sudanese.

Border Remains Closed 26 Jan

NC2701020891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Jan 91 p 3

[By P. V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches]

[Excerpt] Amman—The Iraqi-Jordanian border remained closed Friday for the third consecutive day, with officials reporting "zero movement" across the frontier post at al-Ruwayshid, 350 kilometres northeast of Amman.

In Amman, senior officials said they expected the border closure to be a temporary measure. "I expect the flow to resume in the next two days," said a senior official. He did not elaborate.

Sources at the border said they had not been formally notified of the Iraqi move to close the entry point at Tirbil—70 Kilometres from al-Ruwayshid—at midnight Tuesday for most evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

Despite the closure, a few dozen people whose nationalities were not immediately known crossed Wednesday and Thursday.

In Amman, diplomatic missions of Asian countries were trying to get a clearer picture of the situation from Jordanian authorities.

At least two of the embassies here planned to send diplomats across the border from al-Ruwayshid through the no-man's-land to ascertain whether any of their nationals were stranded at Tirbil.

One Asian ambassador confirmed that he was informed that Iraqi border officials at Tirbil were warning travellers that while they would be permitted into Iraq they would not be allowed to depart.

"We are sending one diplomat to the border today to find out what exactly is the situation," the ambassador told the Jordan Times. "If the diplomat is told at the Iraqi post that he can go in but can't leave then he will try to assess the situation at Tirbil," he said.

Travellers arriving Wednesday after clearing Tirbil before Tuesday midnight said between four and five thousand people were waiting at the border post. Very few details of the people's nationalities were available but it was believed that most of them were Egyptian and Sudanese.

A group of 116 Indian nurses was reported missing in Iraq, but presumably waiting to cross into Jordan.

In addition, several hundred Vietnamese, including a group of Vietnamese nurses, are also believed to be at Tirbil.

Several diplomatic missions in Baghdad have been maintaining wireless contacts with their respective governments, but some of these contacts were lost over the past week, informed sources said.

Also missing in Baghdad was the Vietnamese ambassador to Iraq, one of the sources said.

"The ambassador was supposed to be travelling with the nurses from his country," said the source. "Suddenly, there is no information of his whereabouts, the sources added. [passage omitted]

Moves Underway To Open Border

JN2701093691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Jan 91 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Intense diplomatic efforts were under way Saturday to obtain an accurate picture of the situation at the Iraqi side of the border post with Jordan and to have the Iraqis lift the four-day closure of the crossing, official sources said.

A senior Iraqi diplomat in Jordan crossed the al-Ruwayshid border post Saturday accompanied by Jordanian officials, witnesses reported from the frontier.

The witnesses also said several trucks carrying relief supplies also went into Iraq from al-Ruwayshid, 350 kilometres northeast of Amman.

U.N. sources said they were informed that Jordan was sending relief supplies to evacuees stranded at the Iraqi border awaiting the reopening of the border.

"The shipments are mostly food and blankets and at least one tanker of fuel," one of the sourcs said (an acute shortage of fuel has been reported in Iraq, raising concern that lack of fuel might have hampered the evacuation of many who wanted to leave).

An official at the Iraqi embassy here would only say that "contacts are continuing and the border could be reopened soon, perhaps as early as tomorrow (Sunday)" and a "senior diplomat from the embassy" had left for Iraq.

The official would not provide any clue whatsoever to what prompted the border closure in the first place.

Senior Jordanian officials said the Kingdom had requested Iraq to lift its closure of the border. While they expressed optimism that the Iraqi post would be reopened soon, they did not have any definite indication that the move could come Sunday. Nor did they have any clear indication of the motives for the closure.

"I hope they will reopen it since it has become a major humanitarian issue, with thousands of people suffering at Tirbil," a senior official said.

An Indian diplomat who visited Tirbil Saturday reported that "most people are in very bad shape" there. The diplomat who preferred anonymity, said he estimated the total number of people stranded at the border at around 3,000—most of them Jordanians, Egyptians and Sudanese and a few other nationals.

"The Iraqi officials at the border are asking for a special permission from the Iraqi interior ministry for everyone who wants to leave," he said. "This seems to apply to everyone, including Jordanians and other Arabs as well as Asians, who already have exit permits," he reported.

"The people are suffering really badly in the weather," he said. "Those who have vehicles are relatively well off since they can remain within the vehicles, but the rest—about 1,000—do not have any shelter whatsover."

"Some of them told me they crawl under trucks and other vehicles when it starts raining," he said.

According to the diplomat, food is distributed among the people by the Jordanian Red Crescent and the International Red Cross societies.

Tirbil is about 75 kilometres further from al-Ruwayshid across the no-man's-land between the two countries.

The Indian diplomat said there were 51 of his countrymen at the border. Two other Indian groups—116 nurses and 14 dependents and 110 construction workers—are presumed to have returned to Baghdad or Basra when told last week that the border was closed.

A report that the Indian nurses—most of them women—were "missing somewhere" in Iraq following the outbreak of the Gulf war on Jan. 17 had created an uproar in India, where the government came under harsh criticism for what the opposition described as not doing enough to get them out of the war theatre in time.

Earlier reports have indicated that the Iraqis who clamped down at Tirbil at midnight Tuesday, were warning travellers into Iraq that while they would be permitted to enter the country they would not be permitted to leave. It was not known whether the ban on departure applied to diplomats.

In Amman, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) officials said a process of ferrying evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait to Egypt for onward flights home was streamlined Saturday.

"Everyone is cooperating very well, and we do not envisage any major problems," said Peter Schatzer, head of the IOM mission in Amman.

He said a group of 580 Vietnamese were headed for al-'Aqabah to board a ferry for Nuwaybi', Egypt, later Saturday. The Vietnamese will be flown home aboard Nippon Airways planes from Cairo.

Mr. Schatzer also said IOM was arranging charter flights from al- 'Aqabah for over 1,500 Sudanese evacuees starting Tuesday. "We are also hoping to arrange two charter flights for Asians," he said.

Around 600 Asians—Indians, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Pakistanis—are housed in various transit camps in Jordan after their scheduled departures were delayed because of the closure of Saudi airspace in the wake of the Gulf war.

Border Remains Closed 27 Jan

JN2801101691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jan 91 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Hopes that Iraq would reopen its border crossing with Jordan and allow out over 3,000 people stranded at the frontier post in Jordan's northeast did not materialise Sunday.

Instead, the Iraqis lifted the closure for only about 70 Tunisian nationals and two Jordanian families with the body of a two-year-old child who died of kidney failure, officials said.

According to Jordanian border officials, Iraqi authorities at the border post at Tirbil are insisting on a special permission for everyone who wants to leave the country, including those who already have exit permits.

Obtaining such permission would warrant a trip back to Baghdad from Tirbil for those already at the border. In view of the shortage of fuel in Iraq following the allied air assault which hit the country's refineries, a return journey to Baghdad is almost out of question for many of them, officials pointed out.

According to Iraqi sources, an interim arrangement was being considered under which the Iraqi Ministry of Interior would open a temporary office at Tirbil or al-Rutbah, further inside Iraqi territory, to clear those already at the frontier.

"The situation in Baghdad does not permit any haste in having such arrangements in place," said the source referring to the ongoing bombardment of the Iraqi capital.

Witnesses at the border post said about 70 Tunisians and five Jordanians crossed by noon Sunday.

While the Iraqi border officials appeared to have considered the case of Jordanians as special in view of the death of the child while waiting at the border, there was no immediate explanation why an exception was also made to the Tunisians.

Arab diplomatic sources in Amman suggested that the permission for the Tunisians could have come as a gesture of appreciaton by Iraq for their country's support for Baghdad in the war against the allies (Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben 'Ali Saturday strongly criticised the American-led allied forces and called on the Security Council to order an immediate ceasefire in the 10-day-old war).

But the diplomatic sources could not explain why Iraq did not apply the same parameters to Jordanians, Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Yemenis and Sudanese. Between 1,200 and 1,300 of those stranded at the border are reported to be Jordanian passport holders; the rest includes Yemenis and Sudanese.

International news agencies meanwhile reported that two Jordanians were injured in an allied air attack while they were travelling between the Iraqi town of al-Rutbah and Tirbil.

The Associated Press quoted Mamduh al-'Abbadi, president of the Jordanian Doctors Association and head of the Professional Associations, as saying that three Jordanians were wounded in the incident. Dr. al-'Abbadi said the three were part of a Jordanian medical team that had gone to Iraq last week and were returning home.

One of the three, Sultan Shawakifah, told the AP after reaching Amman that the injuries were not serious.

Cairo Reports Opening

NC2701204391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Iraq reopened its border with Jordan this afternoon, it was closed for four days. The Iraqi authorities have asked the thousands of refugees who want to cross the border to return to Baghdad to obtain exit visas. Some of the refugees who crossed the border into Jordan today said there are still approximately 3,000 to 5,000 persons waiting for Iraqi authorities to allow them to cross the border.

AP today said that as a result of the reopening of the Iraqi- Jordanian border today, trucks loaded with tanks of Iraqi oil resumed their trips between Iraq and Jordan. Jordan imports crude oil from Iraq at prices lower than the market rates.

Iraqi diplomats in Jordan said that the decision to close the Jordanian-Iraqi border last Thursday was made for security reasons.

Source Denies Iraq-Jordan Highway Cut Off

JN2801112091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Al-Ruwayshid—A responsible source at the al-Ruwayshid border post has emphasized that fuel trucks continued their normal trips between Iraq and Jordan all day yesterday, Sunday.

The source denied reports that the desert highway connecting Iraq with Jordan has been cut off by the American aerial bombardment with the aim of disrupting traffic between the two countries. The source said none of the truck drivers coming from Iraq confirmed the various news media claims in this regard.

On reopening the Iraqi-Jordanian border and allowing the Jordanians and refugees at the Iraqi border post of Tirbil [to cross into Jordan], the source said contacts with Iraq are continuing and there is great hope that all will be allowed to cross today, Monday. He emphasized that the Iraqi authorities allowed some to cross the border yesterday for humanitarian reasons.

Arrivals Say Israeli Targets Hit by Missiles

JN2801112791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—Arrivals from occupied Palestine have stated that the Iraqi missiles have accurately hit their targets despite the Zionist military spokesman's denial. The missiles hit the scientific nuclear reactor in Nahal Soreq north of Tel Aviv and the residential area of ministers and senior officials in Bat Yam.

They told AL-DUSTUR that the al-Husayn missiles also hit a plant for warplane wings in Ramat Gan and destroyed the coastal area of Kikar [as published], where the largest tourist hotels are situated.

They said the applied technology research institute called Technion in Haifa was severely damaged in the Iraqi missile attacks.

Arrivals Report 'Mass Evacuation' of Riyadh

NC2501235391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—Arrivals from Saudi Arabia have stated that the authorities have embarked on a mass evacuation of Riyadh inhabitants to Jeddah and other cities.

Observers attributed this measure to the intensive Iraqi missile attacks since the eruption of the American aggression. They expect the inhabitants of Dhahran and al-Jubavl to be evacuated within the next few days.

British Bank Fired on; No Casualties Reported

NC2601223091 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Amman, Jan 26 (AFP)—Unidentified assailants with assault rifles opened fire late Friday at a branch of the British Bank of the Middle East here but caused no casualties, a bank employee told AFP Saturday.

The attackers, who were driving around in a car, caused slight damage to the automatic teller machine, the source said, adding that the bank was across from the al-Wahadat Palestinian refugee camp southeast of Amman.

A bank employee said the front of a small shop adjacent to the bank was damaged by the rifle shots.

Security sources would not confirm the incident, but said additional police patrols had been formed and policemen posted at the premises of Western interests in the capital since the war erupted.

It was the second such attack against a foreign concern since the start of the Gulf war on January 17. On Wednesday, the Canadian Embassy was the target of an arson attempt.

Phoney booby-trapped packages were placed in front of two other British Bank branches, on October 27 and January 22. The "warnings" were later claimed by the clandestine Arab Revolutionary Communist Party. [passage omitted]

Islamic Liberation Party Leader Released

NC2501142491 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, Jan 25 (AFP)—Jordanian authorities released the spokesman for a radical Islamic party here only hours after arresting him for urging attacks on Western interests here as a side action to the Gulf war, party sources said Friday.

They said that 'Ata Abu-al-Rashtah, spokesman for the Islamic Liberation Party, was arrested Thursday shortly after he launched his appeal at a news conference.

Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah urged the Arab and Islamic faithful to wage a "holy war" and "strike at the interests" of member countries of the multinational coalition battling to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

He called for action in Arab and Islamic countries, including Jordan, and said his party was lobbying leaders within the Moslem world to support Iraq militarily against the U.S.-led coalition and against Israelis in occupied Palestine.

Created in 1953 in Jerusalem, the Islamic Liberation Party was dismantled in the 1960s but resurfaced in April of last year when it distributed tracts protesting the arrest of eight of its members.

Deputies Protest Turkey's Position on Gulf War

NC2601014691 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0924 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 25 Jan (PETRA)—A delegation from the Islamic Movement deputies in the House of Representatives visited the Turkish Embassy in Amman yesterday morning, where they met with the Turkish ambassador and presented him with a memorandum on behalf of the movement's deputies addressed to Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

In their memorandum, the Islamic Movement's deputies expressed their regret at, and denunciation of the Turkish Government's position on the Gulf war and of its allowing American aircraft to take off to shell fraternal Iraq from Turkish territory.

The Turkish ambassador welcomed the delegation and promised to convey the memorandum as well as the proceedings of the meeting to the Turkish Government. He expressed his hope that the Turkish leadership will respond to the popular Islamic demands to halt the attack on Iraq from its territory.

The delegation was made up of the deputies: Engineer Ahmad Qtaysh al-Azaydah, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr, Dr. Hammam Sa'id, Dr. Yusuf al-Khasawnah, Hamzah Mansur, and Ibrahim Mas'ud.

The memorandum expresed the Islamic Movement deputies' astonishment and surprise at the news that American bombers of destruction were taking off against Iraq's Muslim people from the Muslim Turkish territory.

The memorandum also expressed the Islamic Movement deputies' concern over the hostile attitude the Turkish Government is taking by allowing enemy aircraft to launch brutal attacks on Iraq.

In their memorandum, the Islamic Movement deputies emphasized that it would be natural for the Turkish Government to stand on Iraq's side, not on the side of America and its ally, international Zionism. They reminded the Turkish president of Muslim Turkey's posture over more than 7 centuries as an impregnable barrier against the Crusader and Zionist conspiracies, as well as of Turkey's protection of the Islamic sanctities in Hejaz and Palestine for more than three centuries.

The Islamic Movement's deputies appealed to the Turkish president on behalf of all the Jordanian people's masses to reinstate Muslim Turkey's bright image in their hearts once again by making a swift and immediate decision revoking permission to allow hostile aircraft to take off from Turkish territory for their criminal aggression against Iraq's Muslim people

Arab Trade Unions Urge Confronting 'Aggression'

NC2501152891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The International Federation of Arab Trade Unions Thursday called on the Arab masses to confront the American-Zionist aggression against Iraq, and to organise marches, and sit-ins to protest this brutal aggression.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of a press conference held here Thursday, the federation stressed that the Iraqi battle was the battle of the whole Arab Nation, and that it was designed to safeguard the nation's unity, sovereignty and pride.

The statement called on all the Arab masses to live up to the historical responsibility warranted by them at this critical time.

"Arab masses everywhere are called upon to exercise pressures called upon to exercise pressures on their governments to stand by Iraq in its battle, because it is defending national Arab security and the Arab land," it said.

The statement called on all international labour federations, the United Nations agencies, including the U.N. Security Council to put pressure on the United States and its allies to put an end to the war and to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Secretary General of the Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam called on the Jordanian public to rally behind the leadership of the country and to increase production and form committees in factories and residential areas.

Al-'Aqabah Port 'Totally Deserted' Since 17 Jan

JN2701094091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Jan 91 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sirin Halasah]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's shipping sector, that received a blow during the five and a half months of embargo against Iraq, is still suffering especially after the outbreak of the war in the Gulf.

According to shipping sources, the port of al-'Aqabah has been totally deserted since the start of the war on Jan. 17. "I can't really tell whether the ships are being intercepted at the Tiran Straits or not, because the port of al-'Aqabah is totally deserted," Rudayn Qa'war, of the Amin Qa'war Shipping Company told the Jordan Times.

He also added that the only ship that had come to the port of al-'Aqabah since the outbreak of the war, was an empty vessel that arrived Friday to load clinker (the raw material for cement). "The ship was not searched because it was already empty," Qa'war said.

Throughout the crisis, the shipping sector of Jordan has been hard hit by the United Nations embargo against Iraq. According to shipping officials this embargo was also enforced against Jordan, even after the Americans had conceded that Jordan was abiding with the embargo on Iraq.

Despite actions and pleas made by the Shipping Agents Association in Jordan to the international organisations and to media representatives, the "harassment" of Jordan-bound vessels continued.

"Now (after the outbreak of the war) we are faced with a problem of getting ships to come to al-'Aqabah Qa'war added explaining that ship owners are avoiding the port of al-'Aqabah because of the fear of war, and of the high cost of insurance on ships. "The insurance on the ship hs gone up from 0.25 per cent to a minimum of 2.5 per cent, or according to the price set by Lloyd's Insurance Company (largest insurance broker on ships and planes)," Qa'war said. For example, if the value of the ship is $10 million, then the customer must pay in insurance close to $250,000 for a week's stay in the port of al-'Aqabah, Qa'war said.

"The American-led forces at the Tiran Straits are still applying the embargo against Iraq," Qa'war said, adding that two ships are expected to come to al-'Aqabah on the 28th of January. "The search will go on but we still don't know whether our ships will be able to pass through to al-'Aqabah," Qa'war said.

Bush's 'False' Anxiety on Environment Viewed

JN2801083491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Jan 91 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "They Are Destroying Iraq and Shedding Crocodile Tears Over the Environment"]

[Text] When U.S. President George Bush sheds crocodile tears over the environment and complains about the dangers posed to the environment by the raging war against Iraq, and when the U.S. mass media carry long reports on the destructive results that may be caused by the flow of oil into the Gulf waters, people may think it is a Greens party leader talking and not the president of the United States, which has a record full of aggression not only against man, but also against the environment.

How can the U.S. president allow himself to talk about the environmental dangers resulting from his premeditated aggression against fraternal Iraq while his warplanes are dropping tens of thousands of shells of death and destruction on Iraqi territories? How can President Bush falsely lament and bewail what may happen to the marine life in the Gulf while his warplanes are raiding and his guided missiles are hitting simple houses and residential areas populated by women and children?

Every world leader except the U.S. president has the right to express anxiety over the environmental dangers of this aggressive war against Iraq. The United States used nuclear bombs against the Japanese, tested all banned weapons against the Vietnamese, dumped nuclear waste in seas, carried out nuclear tests on the ground, and sometimes looked at using other planets in future aggressive wars.

Therefore, we are surprised by the president's talk about the environment and his anxiety over the dangers posed to it, especially since the environmental experts who met in London on the eve of the war strongly warned of the dangers of war in a region that is floating on a sea of oil, and also warned the Americans of the grave dangers that would befall hundreds of millions of people if war breaks out in the Gulf.

Hence, we view the recently announced American anxiety about the future of the Gulf environment as false, and aimed at covering up the scandal of attacking Iraqi oil tankers in the Gulf waters as well as the crime of exposing the region's waters to the most serious pollution in history. This anxiety totally conflicts with America's dark record in this regard and with the American practices in the Gulf, including the serious violations of environmental laws in the whole region.

Papers Say Gulf War Plan Against Arabs, Islam

NC2601020191 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Amman, 25 Jan (PETRA)—Jordanian papers today continue to deal with the American-Atlantic aggression against fraternal Iraq.

Under the headline "America Fights Against the Islamic Awakening", AL-DUSTUR says: It is no longer a secret that the hostile war against fraternal Iraq has now exceeded all its goals and has even gone beyond the context of the unjust Security Council resolutions. The American alliance leaders, the paper adds, have begun to speak publicly about changing the current status in Iraq, while some of America's allies (?reveal) regional ambitions and geographic rights to northern Iraq.

The paper continues: Although a great part of such hostile statements falls within the framework of a psychological warfare against Iraq's steadfast will, we are aware, as the war against a fraternal Arab people grows fierce, that the Iraqi military and scientific capabilities are the targets of this war and that all these concentrations have only come to implement a premeditated Western plan against the Arabs and the Islamic awakening.

Meanwhile, AL-RA'Y publishes an editorial headlined "Washington, Paris, and London—Will They Reconsider Their Calculations?". It says: According to the French defense minister's assessment, no one can predict the course of the Gulf war before March. According to the U.S. defense secretary's view, speaking about victory now is premature and the war will drag on. According to a statement by the British prime minister, people in Britain must prepare themselves for bad news about this war.

The paper adds: This entire (?outcome) is enough for Washington, Paris, and London, to reconsider their calculations in light of the facts evident before them. The decisive victory that experts and advisers depicted to the American President no longer exists. The American public has begun to escalate its opposition to the war in the way it did during the Vietnam war.

Decision To Stop War Said 'in Bush's Hands'

NC2601173891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jan 91 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Bush's Involvement in War and the Hoped Rescue Board"]

[Text] Ten days have passed since the aggressive fascist crusades began against fraternal Iraq, during which the forces of the unholy alliance have been unable to achieve any military victory other than the bombardment of civilian instalations, shops, and residential areas. This has frustrated President Bush and made him and his war chiefs of staff and allies admit their failure in miscalculating and wrongly assessing the valiant Iraqi Army's power and the effectiveness of its sophisticated weapons. This has also made them admit that they have become involved in a long war in which victory over Iraq is not guaranteed, and is even impossible. President Bush expected his forces and those of his allies to face setbacks and serious military failures at the hands of the brave Iraqi troops.

It seems that the postponement of the ground battle, for which the allies have prepared all of their mobile and stationary sophisticated weapons and secured them to high technical systems and equipment, is due to their fear of a quick defeat for their huge forces and concentrations in the desert.

It is clear the President Bush has begun to be concerned about the reactions of the American people and those of the allied states participating in the aggression against Iraq. He has also begun to fear the disintegration of his "coalition" under the pressure of popular anger and its consequences on the allied states. This is clearly seen in the statements made by official White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, in which he warned the American and Western public not to expect a quick and pleasant end to the war, and stressed the possibility that the battles result in Iraqi victories.

Observers in America and Europe believe that President Bush is very concerned, that he began to fear his involvement in a war that would end with his defeat, and that he has become haunted by the horror of the possibility that his allies might withdraw their military forces, particularly after it has been proven that Israel is participating in the aggression against Iraq.

In light of this, we can understand the reasons and objectives behind the American and Western news media concentration on imaginary victories in Kuwait's territorial waters. This concentration is no more than a desperate attempt to boost the deteriorating morale of the allies' troops. From this premise we can also understand the reasons and objectives of these suspicious moves by the allies to search for a way to stop the war and to start talking about a possible peace.

At any rate, peace has always been and still is the Iraqi and Arab position. When Bush exhibited a crazy war mania, Iraq was calling for peace and for averting war. We believe that the ball is still in the court of Bush and his allies, with the condition of accepting the Iraqi 12 August initiative and the just linkage of all the region's issues. If there are efforts, attempts, or initiatives looming on the horizon by this or that party, then this should be addressed to Bush and not to Saddam Husayn.

The decision to stop the war is in Bush's hands and not Saddam's, especially since Bush is the aggressor and he started war. We believe that the Pakistani prime minister has heard something to this effect in Jordan, and we do not believe that Baghdad says anything other than this. Peace will be the life preserver for those who are involved in the aggression against Iraq.

Washington Urged To Reconsider Policy on Region

NC2701021191 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Dropping of the Masks"]

[Text] It seems that the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel have made many masks fall down from many faces. Those who used to criticize Israel's intransigence and its rejection of every fair and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question are now running toward Israel with money, support, and good wishes to show their sympathy for it, although its intransigence and its rejection of the UN resolutions on the Palestine question have not changed and although its bloody oppression in the occupied territories is still escalating day by day. It seems that these people have also found an opportunity in the shelling of Israel to abandon the masks they had been wearing on their faces for some time. So, they are now publicly extending to Israel the hand that they used to extend to it secretly.

Israel was and is the cause of the missile attacks. It still refuses to abide by the UN resolutions calling for its withdrawal from the occupied territories. It is also still committing crimes against the Palestinian people and is blocking efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region. If Israel announces its readiness to comply with these resolutions, the door will be opened to a settlement of the region's issues, including the Gulf crisis, in accordance with the international legitimacy.

The criminal who becomes a victim of his crimes does not deserve sympathy, money, and good wishes. Therefore, it is better for those who are running toward Israel to advise it to accept real peace and to recognize the right of the Palestinian people to their land and their national rights in their land. This is the only way to avert the growing threats in the region.

Moreover, it is better for Washington to abandon the policy of escalating aggression against Iraq, because such an escalation will not benefit Israel in any case. On the contrary, it will lead to more Iraqi pressure, because Israel is a strategic ally of the United States in the region. Therefore, we call on Washington anew to resort to reason, abandon aggression, and open a dialogue with Iraq so that all the region's issues can be solved peacefully on the basis of respect for international legitimacy. It is also important for Washington to remember that turning to peace does not hurt its honor and that it is time for it to make a courageous decision to stop the fighting and reconsider its policy on the region. Peace should be, in all cases, the only option for wise men.

Bush's 'Amazement' at Saddam Moves Criticized

JN2701094891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Confounding 'Amazement'"]

[Text] Amaze is a verb used to show or cause astonishment, to fill with bewilderment or wonder. In a statement he made to the press a couple of days ago, U.S. President George Bush employed the word to describe his feelings towards the Iraqi president. "Saddam continues to amaze the world," Bush said, giving examples first he (Saddam) fires Scud missiles against "innocent" Israel; then he parades allied airmen on television; and now he releases oil into the waters of the Gulf.

Just how amazed George Bush is by the progress of his war against Iraq, we do not really know. To us, however, the amazement is limited to the degree at which the U.S. president's understanding of events in the region stops.

Surely the Americans had heard that Iraq was expecting and preparing for an American-led attack soon after the Jan. 15 deadline. The U.S. must have also taken note of repeated Iraqi statements that Baghdad would retaliate against Israel if and when that attack came.

With this in mind, why Bush, and the rest of the world that he claims to represent and lead, should be amazed by the sight of Scud missiles falling on Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities is beyond our comprehension. If the president and his administration chose to believe that the Iraqis would leave their missiles to be sitting ducks for aerial bombardment, or elected not to believe that Saddam Husayn would make good on his threats and promises, then that is America's problem. No room for amazement or amusement here.

What can be less of a problem for the Bush administration, though, is the parading of their and other airmen captured by Iraq after Jan. 16 and holding them away from the theatre of operations. But this does not mean that the Americans should have been astonished or bewildered by the Iraqi action. The Iraqis are fighting for their own and country's survival. You do not expect them to be gentle and kind with those who have come to destroy them. And you do not wait for them to observe and respect international conventions if their enemies do not do the same thing. Holding the pilots in an area outside the war zone was and still is simply impossible because there has not been a single inch of Iraqi territory that is not considered a target of attack by the U.S. and its military coalition. Little apprehension, and some thinking, may be in order here. But definitely not amazement.

As to the ecological disaster that so many statemen and scientists expected to follow from any war in the Gulf, it seems that the Americans did not want to hear about it. The U.S. had every chance (and all the means) to listen and heed repeated warnings of an impending environmental tragedy when hostilities started. The fact that Washington chose to ignore those warnings, or worse still be responsible for perpetrating the disaster, does not so much call for amazement as sorrow and repentance.

George Bush does not need the useof any more verbs to continue misleading public opinion in America and worldwide. He is better off looking for deeds that would put an end to the mad and pointless war he has started.

Suicide Operations Urged To Boost Iraqis' Morale

JN2701114191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jan 91 p 2

["A Petition" column by Muhammad Dawudiyah: "We Have Burned the American Flag—Now What?"]

[Text] The physical growth of some children stops at a certain height and weight, and the mental growth of others also stops at a certain age and intelligence level due to a defect—in both cases—caused by the human body itself. A small, soft bud shoots up, forcing its way through soil and, sometimes, through rock because the energy and life in the bud enable it to grow and sprout in search of light and oxygen.

We expected our faith to be real so that we could glow and burst forth as soon as we heard the sacred call to arms from Baghdad. We also expected our Arabism to be so sincere that we could move without considering minor political calculations and respond to the call of our brothers, who alone are waging the fiercest battle in the history of humanity with total faith in God and the nation.

The first week of bombing steadfast and lofty Iraq has passed. The masses expressed their fury, burned Bush's effigies and American flags, raised great slogans, staged demonstrations, and condemned the invaders and their agents.

Well, now what?

In the heart of Washington and in the United States itself, the Americans burned Bush's pictures; In Berlin, Germans burned the American flag; In Havana, demonstrators denounced the invaders; and in Beijing, statements were issued warning the world of the humiliating new American order and the U.S. empire's hegemony.

The Arab and Islamic demonstrations were containd in more than one place through launching fiery slogans and proposing peace initiatives to Iraq in order to claim that Iraq was intransigent and that it rejected peace.

Pan-Arab slogans were also curbed in more than one Arab country through false demonstrations, and instead of striking at U.S and Western interests and playing a military role, some Arab sides, who should have played a military role, launched diplomatic initiatives.

We burned the American flag while the United States was burning the capital of steadfastness and Arab and Islamic pride. How different they are!

One fedayeen suicide operation in this crisis and ordeal against the invaders' interests similar to the one carried out against the marines in Beirut, will further raise the already high morale of the Iraqi people and will open the door wide to other crushing fedayeen suicide operations, which will give important support to the forces of the Iraqi Arab dignity.

Iraq has fulfilled its promises. Iraq has received hundreds of promises from the Arab and Islamic masses and organizations, and it is time for these sides to fulfill these promises. Iraq views these promises and these great masses as part of its strategy. Therefore, Iraq is expecting support and assistance. It has the right to expect them because it is waging a just battle on behalf of the Arab and Islamic nations and on behalf of unfortunate people throughout the world. Relief, support, and assistance to the criminal alliance forces are extended in abundance by Japan, Germany, and certain Arab regimes while we are merely burning the American flag! There is great hope that the Arab and Islamic anger will explode, also, late assistance is better than none.

Missile Attacks on Israel Said 'Legitimate'

JN2801073791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Jan 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Continuing To Attack Israel With al-Husayn Missiles Is a Defensive and Political Action"]

[Text] This Iraqi insistence on pounding Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities, particularly the military installations in these cities, with al-Husayn missiles, and in a continuous and successful manner, reflects the Iraqi leadership's belief that Israel constitutes an advanced aggressive base in the Arab region for America and the NATO Pact countries, especially since there is tangible proof and evidence of Israel's participation in the aggression against Iraq.

When Iraq attacks Israel it attacks a dangerous advanced American base. Iraq, along with the entire Arab nation, is fully aware of the aggressive role assigned to Israel in the region. Otherwise, why did America encourage Israel to carry out the 5 June 1967 aggression? Why did it encourage it to attack the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981, and to invade Lebanon and Beirut in 1982? Moreover, America has been supporting Israel to encroach on the Arab land and waters since 1948 until now. All that Israel has thus far done against the Palestinian people and the Arab nation was coordinated with and encouraged by the successive U.S. administrations. In fact, in most cases, it was at their request. All the world peoples and states recall how the United States welcomed Israel's attack on the Iraqi nuclear installations and how it hailed this treacherous aggression. Had nuclear radiation leaked from these installations, they would have caused grave harm to the peaceful Iraqi people.

In addition to being a defensive and security measure, pounding Israel with missiles is undoubtedly a political action. This is because Iraq realizes that Israel and the Zionist movement have played an effective role in exerting pressure on the Bush administration to force it to ignite war and to carry out this treacherous universal aggression against it. It is no secret to anyone that the main concern of Israel and the Zionist movement has always been and is still to destroy Iraq's military power and to crush its historical leadership's will of fighting and confrontation.

Iraq does not forget, even for one moment, that Israel and the Zionist movement have expansionist ambitions in the Arab territories and waters to establish "greater Israel" from the Nile to the Euphrates. Based on this, attacking Israel with missiles or anything else is a legitimate Iraqi action. It is known that Iraq has expressed determination to liberate Palestine, and from the very beginning, it insisted on a just linkage among all the region's issues, at the forefront of which is the Palestine question.

If America, its allies, and agents continue their treacherous aggression against Iraq, Iraq's striking and capable arm will continue to pound Israel, its installations, and cities with missiles and other things. Iraq has other surprises for Israel and the parties to the American alliance, which will appear at the appropriate time.

President Saddam Husayn promised to burn half of Israel if Iraq was exposed to the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression. And now, after it has been exposed to this treacherous aggression, then Iraq has the right to strike at the wings of this aggression and to destroy them wherever they maybe.

Editorial Promises Jihad Against Coalition

JN2801092291 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "An Eye for an Eye, a Tooth for a Tooth, and the Initiator Will Only Blame Himself"]

[Text] All the coalition ring leaders, including the UN secretary general, who are now sharpening their daggers on the skin of the American international legitimacy and who are continuing their attempts to slaughter Iraq—Arabs, Muslims, history, civilization, culture, environment, independent national decisionmaking, and military power—are now standing behind bars. They are completely mistaken to believe that the millions of this nation and other nations everywhere will forgive their crimes and pardon them.

Those killers have triggered a war against Iraq that will not end with the stoppage of blind bombardment or with the silence of guns. A tougher war awaits them, and this war will continue to chase them throughout the world by means of jihad, which they call terrorism, and through the mujahidin, whom they call terrorists. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is the basis of this jihad and the guide of those mujahidin in taking revenge for all the children of Iraq, all the elderly people of Iraq, all the women of Iraq, and for every stone dislocated by an American, French, or British bomb or by a dollar paid by the dictators of the invasion from the treasury of the Arabs or Muslims.

What is taking place in Iraq's skies and on its soil is only the first battle of our long holy war. It is a war that will be waged by youths who believe in God, who never disappointed their homeland, and who will not have mercy or compassion while beginning their worship of retaliation and revenge and of turning all the ground under the feet of the coalition gang into a real hell of panic, death, and destruction. The war they are launching against Islam and Muslims is not the war God's youths will fail to confront; the war they are launching against Arabs and Arabism will not make any Arab feel content unless he spreads panic wherever the scoundrel allies exist. The war, which is desecrating our sanctities and seeking to harm our pride and destroy great Iraq's loftiness, capabiliteis, and status as a pan-Arab model, is not the war the Iraqi Army should wage alone and from which only the Iraqi people should suffer, while others remain secure from our revenge and wrath and from our approach of God and His paradise by fighting the vicious racist Zionist-Crusade coalition gang.

No hand has raised a white flag in Iraq and will not. No palm tree has bowed in great Iraq and will not.

All the Crusaders and their allies and servants are continuing their bombardment of Iraq, but without robbing it of a drop of the sea of its steadfastness or a stone of the mountains of its glory.

Nevertheless, our long holy war is still in its first pace and this consternation, which is overtaking the coalition capitals, and this fear, which lives in the hearts of their political and military leaders, are only the beginning of our journey toward God and His paradise which He promised for the patient, steadfast ones and for martyrs.

There will be an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth and we will attack them from where they did not expect. We will take revenge for the children and martyrs of Iraq and for the destruction they incurred on it, and we will force the tyrant invaders to pay a double price.

We have prepared our shrouds, and they have prepared for our surrender. Our date is close by and will not be late. We will chase them everywhere and will fight them everywhere. We will blow up their interests, heads, and bodies, which are haunted by contempt for us and desecration of our Islam and Arabism. They will not be able to know from where God's youths, who traded paradise for martyrdom, will rise against them.

Iraq May Punish Britain for 'Dirty' Role

JN2801070991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jan 91 p 14

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "A Small State and an Insignificant Measure"]

[Text] Britain, which was once "great," and which considers itself the mistress of the "free world" and a stronghold for "democracy", fighting terrorism, and defending human rights, is now taking the sort of disgraceful actions that the regimes of Anastasio Somoza, 'Idi Amin, South Africa, and Chile were ashamed of taking.

The Thatcherist government of Major has arrested Iraqi students, which are pursuing their studies in the country of sciences, technology, education, and advanced civilization, and considered them prisoners of war.

The Thatcherist government of Major took these measures for fear that the students might destabilize security and sow confusion in Britain!

We know that Thatcher's government was the Atlantic state most enthusiastic for aggression against Iraq. We also know that the Thatcherist government of Major played a role in instigating and encouraging Bush to wage a war. This is because there is a bloody historical enmity between Iraq and the Arab nation on one hand and Britain on the other.

Following the tripartite aggression led by Britain against the Egypt of 'Abd-al-Nasir, the Arab nation managed to expel Britain from the region and turn it into a third class state.

The Arab nation has known Britain's conspiratorial role and its dirty aggression since World War I, beginning with the fragmentation of the Arab homeland and the establishment of the Zionist entity in Palestine and ending with its current aggression against Iraq.

Our nation also knows that Britain is gripped with a hateful racist grudge against every Arab, Iraqi, Syrian, Egyptian, Moroccan, Algerian, Saudi, or Yemeni citizen. Britain's grudge has been reflected on many occasions through its despicable plots against the glorious Arab nation.

Our Arab nation, however, has been able to turn Britain, after the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956, into a third class state. Our Arab nation then turned its into a fourth class state by expelling it from southern Yemen in 1968 and into a fifth class state by nationalizing the Iraqi oil and expelling British companies from Baghdad.

In the same way Britain has participated in this treacherous Crusader-Zionist aggression against Iraq, our nation will teach it the lesson it deserves, and will turn it after its mistress, the United States, and its allies are defeated, into a marginal state with no role and voice whatsoever.

If the Thatcherist government of Major has contributed to igniting this destructive war in order to restore the glories of the "great empire", it must have been completely misguided. Brave Iraq, supported by its Arab nation, knows how to punish Britain for its rancorous historical enmity to this nation and for its dirty conspiratorial roles.

It seems that following its failure, along with its allies, to achieve any military success against Iraq so far, Britain is behaving in the way small states do and is expressing its despair and frustration by arresting a number of Iraqi students and considering them prisoners of war.

It is the sort of insignificant action that only a small people would take...and "he who cannot harm the camel bites the saddle."

Bomb Explodes Near Egyptian Embassy in Beirut

NC2701070191 Paris AFP in English 0644 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Beirut, Jan 27 (AFP)—A small bomb exploded overnight near the Egyptian Embassy here, but no casualties or damage were reported, police said Sunday.

They said the blast went off in an empty lot near the embassy on the seafront at the southern entrance to Beirut, controlled by the Syrian army.

It was the first attack apparently aimed at an Arab member of the anti-Baghdad coalition since the allies launched their drive to oust Iraq from Kuwait on January 17.

Seven previous attacks were aimed at Western interests in Lebanon.

Bomb Explodes Outside French-Lebanese Bank

NC2701182691 Paris AFP in English 1304 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Beirut, Jan 27 (AFP)—Bombs exploded early Sunday outside the Egyptian Embassy here and a French-Lebanese bank in eastern Lebanon, but no casualites were reported, police said.

The blasts brought to eight the number of bomb attacks aimed at members of the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq since the Gulf war erupted on January 17.

The latest attack—the fourth against French interests since the start of the war—caused extensive damage at the Banque Libano-Francaise in Bar Ilyas, in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley of eastern Lebanon.

Earlier, a small bomb exploded near the Egyptian Embassy in Beirut but no damage was reported, police said.

They said the blast went off in an empty lot near the embassy on the seafront at the southern entrance to Beirut, controlled by the Syrian army.

A Lebanese man was killed on January 22 in a blast outside the Fransabank in the al-Biqa' Valley city of Ba'labakk.

Syrian Army Arrests Iraq Supporters in North

NC2601224191 Paris AFP in English 1113 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Beirut, Jan 26 (AFP)—Syrian intelligence services in Lebanon have arrested 160 Iraqi supporters in the north of the country in recent days, the Lebanese branch of the pro-Iraqi al-Ba'th party announced Saturday.

In a statement released here, the party said the arrests occurred in Tripoli and the village of Funaydiq following a demonstration in solidarity with Iraq.

But there was no independent confirmation on the number of arrests.

Security sources here said about 10 people were arrested in the past three days by Syrian intelligence services in the al-Biqa' Valley town of Ba'labakk, which is under Syrian control.

The sources said those detained had distributed leaflets or put up pro-Iraqi posters that were summarily ripped off by the Syrian intelligence forces.

In Beirut and its suburbs, jointly controlled by the Syrian and Lebanese armies, authorities barred sit-ins planned in solidarity with Iraq at three universities.

Iraq and Syria are ruled by rival factions of the al-Ba'th party and have long been at odds ideologically.

New Kuwaiti Ambassador Presents Credentials

NC2601020591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] New Kuwaiti Ambassador to Lebanon Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim submitted his credentials today to President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Al-Jasim ruled out the possibility that other parties may join the war raging in the Gulf. He said he is confident that Kuwait will be liberated soon and added that Arabs who have backed the Iraqi president have backed a losing horse.

Salman Hopes Israel Will Not Get Involved in War

NC2701195191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1905 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 27 Jan (SANA)—Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said that Syria supports the holding of an international peace conference for the Middle East and the formulation of a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of UN resolutions. Syria, however, is not in favor of an international conference that would examine all the regional issues because there are no links between these issues, he added.

MENA [MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY] reports that the Syrian information minister today told a number of European newspaper correspondents that the current war in the Gulf is between Iraq and the UN Security Council and that the forces of the international coalition are now implementing the UN resolutions.

Salman expressed the hope that the pressures exercised by some countries on Israel would prevent that country from getting involved in the ongoing war in the Gulf.

The information minister said that the current differences among Arab countries do not concern the essence of the crisis but rather the way to tackle it, for all Arabs reject the Iraqi invasion and annexation of Kuwait. Salman said that the Arab League will not be able to play a part in resolving the current crisis unless Iraq changes its position and withdraws from Kuwait. The information minister expressed his hope that Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait and spare itself further destruction. He added that it is currently difficult to predict the outcome of the war.

Al-Shar' Says Gulf War Not Arab-Israeli Conflict

NC2501214491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 25 Jan 91

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has announced in Damascus that Syria cannot agree to the Iraqi attempts to link between the Gulf crisis and the Arab-Israeli conflict. In a statement to the press after his meeting with the Greek foreign minister, al-Shar' said that what is taking place now is a war in the Gulf, not an Arab-Israeli conflict. Referring to the missiles Iraq fires against Israel, Al-Shar's said: We cannot accept some methods that seek to bring about a war before we are ready to wage it. Faruq al-Shar' accused Iraq of trying to confuse the cards and to deceive the Arab public opinion.

Al-Shar' emphasized that Israel must not reply and that the allies must not reward it because it occupies Arab territory and does not implement UN resolutions. The Syrian foreign minister added that the settlement of the Gulf crisis should lead to the settlement of the conflict in the Middle East.

Reportage on Pakistani Premier's Peace Mission

Sharif Arrives 24 Jan

BK2401155591 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrived in Damascus today on the third leg of his Gulf peace mission. He was received by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at the airport. He was presented a guard of honor and then introduced to the members of the Syrian Cabinet.

Soon after his arrival in Damascus, the prime minister held a meeting with his Syrian counterpart, Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The two leaders exchanged views on the situation arising out of the Gulf war. They later held formal talks during which they explained their respective viewpoints and stressed the need for resolving the crisis on the basis of accepted principles. The two leaders expressed the view that the Gulf war is disastrous for the Islamic community and also underscored the need for implementation of the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and the Arab summit conference. They also held discussions on bilateral issues and agreed to reinvigorate the role of the Syrian-Pakistani high-level committee for bilateral cooperation in economic and technical fields. The aides of the two sides were also present at the talks.

Earlier, Nawaz Sharif was accorded a very enthusiastic send-off when he left Ankara for Damascus. He was seen off by the Turkish prime minister and others. In a statement before his departure, the prime minister said he reviewed with the Turkish leaders the dangerous Gulf situation which will bring about very serious consequences. During his meetings with President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut, the Kashmir problem, Afghanistan situation, and conditions in the Middle East came under discussion. He added that during his detailed exchange of views with Turkish leaders, it was noted that the two countries share identical views on a number of international and regional issues. Nawaz Sharif said bilateral relations and the possibilities of further promoting economic and technical cooperation particularly were discussed during his talks with Turkish leaders. The prime minister expressed confidence that his talks with Turkish leaders will give a new direction to their efforts for achieving common objectives and further strengthen the existing and future cooperation between the two countries.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent Razaur Rahman Jaffery said in a dispatch that the two sides have expressed the desire to forge closer cooperation.

While on his way to Damascus from Ankara, the prime minister held an emergency meeting with his Cabinet colleagues and advisers on board the plane. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, the adviser for information and broadcasting, told newsmen that the meeting decided to extend the peace mission up to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The prime minister and his colleagues have decided to go the areas affected by war, because they think that their lives are not more valuable than those of the people affected by the war.

The prime minister will go from Damascus to Amman by road tomorrow. He will return to Damascus the same day. He will then go to Cairo from where he will depart for Saudi Arabia.

Joins Al-Asad in Condemning Iraq

BK2501071591 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Various bilateral and international matters were discussed during the meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus last evening. The Gulf crisis came in for in-depth discussion and the two leaders agreed that necessary steps should be taken to find a solution to the issue. They felt that the Iraqi action is extremely destructive for the Islamic community. They decided that the foreign ministers of the two countries should remain in close touch with each other to keep a constant watch on the Gulf situation.

The Pakistani prime minister told the Syrian president that the aim of his visit to Islamic states is to establish peace in the Gulf. Nawaz Sharif apprised President al-Asad of his efforts in light of his talks with the leaders of Iran and Turkey. The prime minister said Pakistan is deeply saddened and concerned at the great loss of life and property due to war. He said we are trying everything possible to restore peace because it is in the interests of the entire Islamic community.

President al-Asad emphasized the need to respect the principles of peaceful coexistence. Condemning the Iraqi aggression, he said the recognition of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait would be tantamount to acceptance of the law of jungle.

According to Radio Pakistan representative Reza Jaffry, the 90-minute talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and both countries shared identical views on all issues. The foreign ministers of the two countries were present during the talks. Both foreign ministers also met separately and exchanged views on mutual issues.

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'ubi hosted a banquet in honor of the Pakistani prime minister.

Nawaz Sharif will today go to the Jordanian capital of Amman from Damascus by road. He will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, from where he will go to Saudi Arabia.

Makes Statement, Departs

NC2501152191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus—Pakistani Prime Minister Mohamed Nawaz Sharif left Damascus this afternoon after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led those who were on hand to see him off at Damascus International Airport.

Prior to his departure, Sharif made a statement saying: I am very pleased to have visited Syria and met with Syrian brothers. We held talks on bilateral ties and the most important issue—the Gulf war. Our talks were very useful.

This morning the Pakistani prime minister toured old Damascus city where he was familiarized with its archaeological features. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Pakistani Prime Minister Mohamed Nawaz Sharif performed the Friday prayers at the al-Rawdah Mosque in Damascus at noon today.

'Identity of Views' Noted

NC2501214591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Pakistani Prime Minister Mohamed Nawaz Sharif left Damascus at 1345 today at the conclusion of a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

The talks held by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Damascus confirmed the identity of views of both Syria and Pakistan on the need to continue to make every possible effort to bring an immediate halt to the Gulf war on the basis of the Arab, Islamic, and UN Security Council resolutions passed in this regard.

When all aspects of the Gulf crisis were reviewed, the two sides expressed grave concern over the failure of all the peace initiatives offered to Iraq since the invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990.

The Syrians and Pakistanis expressed their deep sorrow over the destruction and bloodshed suffered by Iraq—the destruction and bloodshed which in no way benefit Arab and Islamic causes. They affirmed their conviction that a complete withdrawal from Kuwait would spare Iraq further destruction and bloodshed.

Meeting With Al-Zu'bi Reported

BK2601092691 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has thanked the Syrian leaders for their support to Pakistan's just stand on the Kashmir issue at the 19th conference of Islamic foreign ministers held in Cairo in August last. During talks with the Syrian prime minister in Damascus, the two leaders also discussed bilateral relations and felt that there existed considerable potential for two-way beneficial cooperation. They agreed to adopt suitable measures for further promoting and strengthening their bilateral relations in general and economic cooperation in particular. They decided to convene the second meeting of Pak-Syria joint ministerial commission in the near future.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif extended a cordial invitiation to President Hafiz al-Asad on behalf of the Pakistan president and to Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi on his own behalf to visit Pakistan at an early date. The invitations were accepted and the visit will be undertaken on mutually convenient dates in the future.

The prime minister is now in Cairo on the next leg of his peace mission to the Gulf.

Greek Foreign Minister Samaras Arrives 25 Jan

Confers With Al-Shar'

NC2501213091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Greek Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Greek minister was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the Western Europe and protocols desks at the Foreign Ministry, the Greek ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

In a statement to a correspondent of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, Samaras expressed his pleasure at visiting Damascus. He said that he will hold talks during this visit on the Gulf crisis and bilateral ties. Samaras paid tribute to the friendly ties existing between the Syrian Arab and Greek peoples. He also expressed Greece's desire to bolster the ties of cooperation and friendship existing between the two peoples. [Damascus SANA in Arabic at 1850 GMT on 25 January in a Damascus-datelined item adds, "Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Greek Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras today in the presence of Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the head of the Western Europe desk at the Foreign Ministry; Emmanouil Megalooikonomou, assistant secretary general at the Greek Foreign Ministry; and the Greek ambassador in Damascus.

["During the meeting, the two ministers exchanged views on the current situation in the region, various aspects of the Gulf situation, and the efforts currently under way to bring about an immediate halt to the war on the basis of implementing the Arab and international resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

["The two sides affirmed the importance of safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity. They believe that a full withdrawal from Kuwait would spare Iraq further destruction and bloodshed."]

Meets With Al-Asad

NC2601225391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Greek Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras at 1215 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Emmanouil Megalooikonomou, Greek Foreign Ministry assistant secretary general; and the Greek ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Discussion during the meeting centered on the war in the Gulf and its regional and international repercussions and on relations between the two countries.

Notes 'Excellent' Talks, Departs

NC2601225891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1646 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jan (SANA)—Greek Foreign Minister Andonios Samaras left Damascus today after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the Foreign Ministry West Europe and Protocol Departments, and the Greek ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Mr. Samaras made a statement to SANA in which he said: Our talks in Damascus were excellent. I had the honor to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad, and I very much appreciate the fact that his excellency gave me two hours of his valuable time.

He said that the talks dealt with the situation in the region, the Gulf crisis, and the efforts to put an end to the war quickly on the basis of Arab and international resolutions so as to bring peace to the region.

During the talks, the two sides stressed the need to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity.

Mr. Samaras added that the talks also centered on the situation in Europe and the possibility of strengthening ties between Syria and the EC. He praised the strong ties of friendship between the two countries and said those ties were strengthened during the talks today.

Mr. Samaras concluded his statement by expressing his appreciation for the hospitality with which he was received in Syria, and invited Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to visit Greece at the earliest possible opportunity.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Statement Criticizes U.S. Envoy

LD2501202991 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman stated the following concerning a recent interview given by Peter Tomsen, the U.S. special envoy to the Afghan opposition groups:

Recently, in an interview with Voice of America, Mr. Peter Tomsen continued his irresponsible assertions about the Republic of Afghanistan and made some accusations from the position of being a bombast [wahi sara]. By expressing his hostile and discriminatory intentions against the Republic of Afghanistan and its leadership—instead of considering the reality of the situation—he provocatively instructed the people of Afghanistan on what they should and should not do, and on who should govern Afghanistan and who should not.

This is not the first time Mr. Tomsen has said he himself is the Afghan people's guardian and told them how to determine their fate. Ambassador Tomsen, who has been discredited by the interim government [of Afghan oppositionists in Peshawar], is trying to raise the low morale of the opposition with such assertions and conceal the defeat and disgrace of the interim government, to which he is the ambassador.

It is surprising that against the general international plan for a speedy and peaceful solution to the issue of Afghanistan and contrary to the positive signs in the policy of his home country on the issue of Afghanistan, Mr. Tomsen continues to voice his personal policy, which represents the policy of only a handful of prejudiced and warmongering circles in certain countries.

Afghans do not allow Ambassador Tomsen to tell them what to do from the position of a guardian. The assertions and intentions of Mr. Tomsen will not yield any results but will only further complicate the solution of the Afghan issue and result in a continuation of war and killing in our country. Whether Mr. Tomsen and his kind like it or not, peace will prevail in Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan will decide on the establishment of peace and the fate of their country, not on orders and instructions from Mr. Tomsen but based on their national interests.

Kabul Protests Pakistan's Treatment of Diplomat

LD2801084591 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The Information and Publication Department of the Foreign Ministry reports to the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy was summoned this afternoon to the Foreign Ministry and a strong protest was conveyed to him by the head of the First Political Department as follows:

According to a report by the Afghanistan consulate in Quetta, when Abdul Sabur, second secretary of the consulate of the Republic of Afghanistan, and his chauffeur were returning home on 30 January [as heard] at 2200, they were followed by several armed men wearing police uniforms and driving a Toyota car without a license plate. They were stopped and questioned. The armed men wanted to take the driver to the station. The driver, who asked for police help, was followed again by one of the men who came 40 meters inside the home of the Afghan secretary.

The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests such conspiratorial type of actions and demands that the Pakistani Embassy convey this protest to the relevant authorities. The authorities should be aware of the Geneva Convention on ensuring the security of diplomats of the Republic of Afghanistan in Pakistan.

Of course, in the event that such incidents are repeated, the Pakistani Government will be held responsible.

Najibullah's Message to Iran, Turkey, Syria

LD2501172691 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, sent separate messages to Tehran, Ankara, and Damascus addressed to His Excellency Brother [as heard] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran; His Excellency Turgut Ozal, president of the Republic of Turkey; and His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Arab Republic of Syria. The messages dealt with the Gulf crisis, and ways to end the destructive war as soon as possible and solve the Gulf issue by peaceful and political means.

Hizballah Ready To Strike at U.S.-Led Forces

LD2201172991 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), Jan. 22, IRNA—Afghanistan's Hizballah organisation voiced its readiness to strike blows on the U.S.-led forces in case the Zionist regime enters the Persian Gulf war.

In a statement issued today, the organisation warned that destruction of economic and military centres of Islamic states is part of the long-term policies of the United States and the Zionist regime, and the Muslim people of Iraq are considered as the first victims of this conspiracy.

It also called for on [as received] Islamic states to step up diplomatic efforts to thwart global arrogance from achieving its notorious aims.

'Enemies of Islam' Responsible for War on Muslims

LD2401202191 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 24, IRNA—Leaders of the Peshawar-based 7-Party Afghan Alliance have held both the sides to the Persian Gulf war responsible for the conflict which entered its second week today. Abdul Rasul Sayyaf told a group of Afghan refugees here Wednesday that the enemies of Islam have imposed the Persian Gulf on Muslims.

Sayyaf singled out Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers for their "wrong policies" which he said has led enemies to suppress Muslims, and kill innocent people. He said Saudi rulers by giving financial aid to Moscow have dealt a heavy blow to the jihad (holy struggle) of the Afghan Muslims. Sayyaf had earlier stated that Saudi rulers "stabbed Mojahedin in the back" by their four-billion-dollar aid to Moscow.

Another Pashto Afghan leader, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, calling for and end to the war Wednesday, "to save the lives of innocent people", urged Baghdad to pull out its forces from Kuwait. Mojaddedi lamenting about the financial difficulties of the Pashto alliance, said it was difficult to take positions in the Persian Gulf war. He said Western countries had significantly reduced their aid to the Pakistan based Afghan Mojahedin and refugees before, and that Persian Gulf Arab states had followd suit after the occupation of Kuwait on August 2. The past the Peshawar based Afghan groups were very much dependent on Washington and its oil-rich client states in the Persian Gulf, but have been increasingly ignored with the thaw in Washington-Moscow ties.

Hikmatyar's Orders To Fight Iraq 'Denounced'

LD2301173591 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Instructions have been issued by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar to dispatch his men to participate in the war against Iraq under the command of U.S. military forces. The BAKHTAR military section has reported that on the basis of this instruction, Dr. Isma'el, one of the ringleaders of the so-called Hezb-e Eslami Party in Baghlan Province, spoke on 21 January in Dahana-e Ghowri, Pol-e Khomri Province, to other ringleaders attached to this party—along with several influential persons and elders of Baghlan Province—regardiang the Gulbuddin's instructions.

Ringleaders, influential persons, and elders strongly denounced the position of Gulbuddin and other leaders of the armed groups in Pakistan; they refused to follow instructions to send Afghan youths to the Gulf region to fight against Iraq under U.S. command.

The following rejected Gulbuddin's demand to send men to Saudi Arabia: Nazar Gol, Haji Akhtar Mohammad, Haji Fayz Mohammad, Iqbal Khan, Haji Gol Khan, Arbab Henan, Sur Gol, and Qaraboy; the elders and influential persons in Baghlan Province: a number of Gulbuddin ringleaders, including Mola Abdorrahman, Najmoddin, Aghajan, Gholam Sakhi, and Sofi Sayd Mohammad.

Islamic Party Denounces Attacks on Iraq

LD2401184491 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] The leadership of the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan met today and issued a statement on the situation in the Gulf. The statement says that the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan denounces the attacks against Iraq by the United States and other forces under its command. In expressing its profound regret, the party does not regard such barbarous attacks as the way to resolve the problem and believes that such actions will only complicate the situation. The statement says the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan calls on international societies, all Muslims of the world, and the United Nations Organization to use all possible means to halt the expansion of the war in the Gulf and to safeguard holy Muslim places—such as glorious Mecca, holy al-Madinah, Jerusalem, holy Karbala', and holy Najaf—from threats and destruction.

Peace Front Holds Anti-War March in Kabul

LD2401173291 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Today a march was held in the streets of Kabul organized by the Peace Front of Afghanistan, with the participation of a large number of Kabul citizens, calling for an immediate end to the war in the Gulf region. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports that a meeting held in the Square of the Unknown Soldier Mawlawi Nasrullah Hanafi, chairman of the Peace Front of Afghanistan Unity Council and deputy chairman of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, and Dr. Muhammad Qasim Khalid, deputy chairman of the Peace Front of Afghanistan, spoke of the necessity of ending the Gulf war. Then the marchers marched toward the 'Id Gah mosque. Inside the grounds of the mosque, Shaykh 'Ali Ahmad Fakur and Zaman Gol Dehati, deputy chairmen of the Unity Council of the Peace Front of Afghanistan, delivered speeches on the Gulf situation and the need to end war there. The speakers condemned efforts to resolve the issue by means of war and expressed their aversion and hatred of war and warmongering.

During the march, Kabul citizens repeatedly shouted "God is great," "We do not want war," "The sacred places of Islam should not be transformed into battlefields." The marchers demanded peace in the Gulf and in Afghanistan and added that Islamic countries, especially the Arab ones, should play an active role for peace.

At the end of the march a resolution was read by Professor Muhammad Rahim Elham, candidate academician and member of the Peace Front of Afghanistan. The resolution strongly demands that the United

Nations, Islamic countries, and nonaligned countries make efforts to end the destructive Gulf war. The march ended with a prayer read by Wosqul Elsma 'Ali Wosqi, member of the Unity Council of the Peace Front of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Gulf Diplomats in Dhaka Receive Phone Threats

BK2601070991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 26 (AFP)—Diplomats from member nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have been receiving telephone threats here, sources said Saturday. They said some calls seemed to be from Arabic-speaking people, whose identities were not known.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. It is part of the U.S.-led coalition fighting Iraq.

The MORNING SUN newspaper reported Saturday that several foreign missions and United Nations agencies have complained that their staff were receiving threats by telephone from Iraqi Embassy personnel.

Last Thursday the Foreign Office here summoned an Iraqi diplomat and protested his embassy's alleged involvement in inciting pro-Saddam Husayn demonstrations.

Meanwhile, sources said that Bangladesh authorities have advised foreign nationals not to travel outside the capital for security reasons.

A notice circulated to embassies and foreign agencies said foreign personnel should be more careful in their movements because of "rising anti-Gulf War sentiments in the country."

Army Refutes Rumors of Gulf Troop Casualties

BK2701162891 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] According to an ISPR [Interservice Public Relations] press release in Dhaka, rumors about the casualties of Bangladeshi soldiers in Saudi Arabia are completely false and motivated designed to create doubts and confusion in the minds of the people. The Army Headquarters in Dhaka is in constant touch with the Army contingent in Saudi Arabia, and so far there has been no casualty among the members of the Bangladesh contingent. Also, no action took place near the area where the Bangladeshi soldiers are deployed.

Students Threaten Ershad Villa; Security 'Tight'

BK2701053891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0526 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 27 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities enforced tight security in the capital Sunday as a powerful student group planned to seize the villa in which ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has been interned.

Riot police have been posted on all roads leading to the Gulshan diplomatic enclave where the 60-year-old former leader was put under house arrest December 12 along with his wife Raushan.

The students belonging to the All Party Students Unity (APSU), which played a leading role in the campaign to topple Mr. Ershad, have demanded that the former leader and his wife be moved to the high-security Dhaka Central Jail. The authorities have declared the villa a sub-jail, but students said "it is not enough... He is a murderer and the Central Jail is his right place." The APSU also demands that all ministers of Mr. Ershad's cabinet be arrested, tried and their property seized.

Meanwhile, the pro-government BANGLADESH TIMES newspaper, quoting "dependable sources" reported that Mr. Ershad was likely to be moved to the Central Jail on Sunday. A senior official of the Home (Interior) Ministry had no comment on the report.

Detention in Central Jail Urged

BK2701164091 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The All Party Students Unity [APSU] has urged the interim government to shift former President Ershad to Dhaka Central Jail within 24 hours from the present subjail [as heard] at Gulshan. The ultimatum was announced at a rally in the capital today.

Earlier, the APSU brought out a procession from the university campus and proceeded toward the Gulshan subjail where the deposed president is interned. But police stopped the procession at the Bijoy Sarani intersection.

The APSU leaders reiterated their demand for immediate arrest of the associates of the ousted president, transfer of former Vice President Moudud Ahmed and former Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan to Central Jail, and recovery of illegal arms.

'Sources' Warn of Military Coup if Ershad Tried

BK2701091491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 27 Jan 91

[By Nadeem Quadir]

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Jan 27 (AFP)—The trial of ousted Bangladesh president Hussain Mohammad Ershad demanded by major political parties and students threatens to spark a military coup in this politically volatile nation, sources close to the military warned Sunday.

"General Ershad played shrewd politics with the defence forces, telling the troops almost every time he met them that he was one of them and that his government gave them the highest priority," said one source who refused to be identified.

He warned that a trial would be viewed by many officers and soldiers as a humiliation of the Armed Forces and could spark a coup, even though army chief Lieutenant General Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan is in full control of the army.

The source said political parties and student groups should carefully weigh the effects their demand for the former president's trial would have on the military.

Another source said that not only were former ministers and bureacrats linked to Mr. Ershad's corrupt practices, but "some of the top brass of the military too." He warned that they would not want to be drawn into a court fight.

Mr. Ershad was careful to involve many of his associates, both civilian and military, in financial scams, he said. And once the ousted president is put on trial, he would open his "jack box of surprises."

Top officials, if implicated, could launch a coup to stop the trial, he warned.

Defence sources said at least two top intelligence officials had been removed from their posts and put under arrest. One of them was a brigadier who headed the Defence Forces Intelligence (DFI). DFI was modernised by Mr. Ershad to counter any coup attempts against him and was divided into a number of sections to create rivalry and distrust among officers, the sources said.

Mr. Ershad, 60, who seized power in a 1982 bloodless military coup, repeatedly said during his nearly nine year rule that he had no opponents in the military. After the Army withdrew its support, he stepped down December 6 in the face of mass demonstration against his regime.

Meanwhile, activists of the powerful All Party Students Unity (APSU) were stopped by riot police from marching to the luxury villa in the Gulshan diplomatic enclave where Mr. Ershad and his wife, Raushan, have been interned since December 12.

The group gave a 24-hour ultimatum for the interim government to move Mr. Ershad and his wife to the high-security Dhaka Central Jail or face possible action by the students.

"Mr. Ershad is an identified criminal and he should not get any special treatment... He should be put in jail with other criminals," said Shafi Ahmed, a leader of the APSU. They also called for the arrest of all his cabinet ministers and the seizure of their property. [passage omitted]

India

U.S. Air Force Refuelling Stops Denounced

BK2801150291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1433 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 28 (AFP)—The Indian Government Monday said it had been quietly allowing U.S. Air Force transport planes to refuel in Bombay en route between the Philippines and the Gulf under an agreement with Washington.

"In keeping with our friendly bilateral relations with the United States, we have allowed the transit of U.S. Air Force transport aircraft through Bombay," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The report of the daily refuelling in Bombay of U.S. Air Force C-141 Starlifter transports since January 9 was first carried by THE TIMES OF INDIA Monday morning. It sparked an instant and indignant reaction from political parties here.

"Shocking beyond belief," said former Deputy Foreign Minister K.K. Tewari in an angry statement released on the refuelling operation. The country's main left-wing parties called it "a matter of shame to the government of India" and demanded that it be halted.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the U.S. Government had assured India that all supplies carried in the planes were non-lethal. "These facilities were granted for the purpose of carrying non- lethal supplies including medicines and for evacuation of personnel on medical, humanitarian and emergency grounds," he said.

He added that Washington had agreed to reimburse India in kind for the fuel, but refused comment when reporters questioned him whether India's neutral posture in the Gulf war had been compromised.

He said India was permitting the planes to refuel only on condition that they carry non-lethal supplies, but again refused comment when asked whether India was being allowed to inspect the aircraft.

The TIMES report said a total of 38 C-141 Starlifters had refuelled in an "around the clock" operation which started January 9 before the launching of operation Desert Storm following a request from the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

It said the planes were parked in a remote bay at the Sahar Air Terminal in Bombay before flying on to al-Fujayra and Dubai in the Gulf, but did not say what materials they were carrying.

"If the news is true, it is an unmitigated crime against the nation and the people of India and this government must go lock, stock and barrel," said Mr. Tewari, a member of the powerful Congress (I) party.

The minority government of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar depends on the Congress (I) party's support to stay in power. "It is shocking beyond belief," he said in a statement released here, adding that he saw the action as "an abject betrayal (of the Indian people)."

India's main leftist parties, including the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India-Marxist, released a statement demanding that the government "immediately stop" the operation, saying the action was in "gross violation of the people's mandate." "(The government) must not be allowed to mortgage the long-cherished and accepted anti-imperialist foreign policy of India," the statement said.

India has condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, but joined Non-Aligned Movement efforts to seek a negotiated solution to the conflict, and has sent troops neither to Saudi Arabia nor to Iraq.

Restrictions Imposed on U.S. Mission in Bombay

BK2801032691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] A 24-hour curfew has been imposed in the northwest Jogeshwari area in Bombay after a fresh outbreak of group clashes yesterday. Police fired 55 rounds at the clashing groups in which five persons were killed and 45 injured.

Meanwhile, prohibitory orders have been imposed in the areas around the consulates of the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Four persons were injured when a country-made bomb exploded at a meeting in Central Bombay yesterday. The injured have been admitted to a hospital. The public meeting was being held to felicitate the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani.

Iraqi Envoy Affirms Readiness for 'Long War'

BK2401161291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] The Iraqi ambassador to India, Mr. al-Shaykhali, says his country is prepared for a long war and there is no question of giving in at this stage. Talking to our correspondent in New Delhi this evening, he said that there has to be a comprehensive solution to all the West Asian problems.

Foreign Minister Returns From Tehran Visit

BK2701133791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign ministers of five nonaligned countries will be meeting in Belgrade in the first week of next month to formulate a fresh NAM [Nonaligned Movement] initiative to end the Gulf war. This was disclosed by the external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, while talking to newspersons at Delhi airport on his return from Tehran this afternoon. He said the foreign ministers of India, Yugoslavia, Algeria, Venezuela, and Iran will be meeting in the Yugoslav capital in a fresh bid to find a peace plan for West Asia.

Asked about the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's rejection of any initiative if it does not include a solution to the Palestinian problem, Mr. Shukla said all these things will be taken care of while preparing a peace plan. The minister said his visit to Tehran has been very positive and both India and Iran have unanimity of views on the Gulf War. Mr. Shukla is scheduled to leave for Colombo tomorrow.

Commentary Criticizes All-Out War Against Iraq

BK2801114591 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Jan 91

[K.S. Ramamurthi commentary: "Issues in the Gulf War"]

[Text] In the Gulf war, the United States and its allies have a single-point program to make President Saddam Husayn of Iraq vacate Kuwait. President Saddam Husayn on his part has a single-point program to prevent the United States from carving Kuwait from Iraq. He has declared in unmistakable language that Kuwait belongs to Iraq and will remain part and parcel of Iraq.

Some of the war aims of the United States and its allies are implicit. They want to destroy Iraq's military power. The shadow of Hitler looms large in their apprehensions. They believe that the policy of appeasement which allowed Hitler to overrun Czechoslovakia under the influence of the British Prime Minister Chamberlain in 1938 led eventually to World War II. They believe further that if President Saddam Husayn is allowed to get away with the invasion of Kuwait, there can be no stopping him. He will dominate the region, dictate production and pricing policies for oil of which Kuwait accounts for a considerable proportion in the region and generally throws about its weight. President Saddam Husayn will in due course be able to destabilize Arab regimes and, above all, Israel. In the calculations of the United States, no price is too high to pay in order to apply the brakes to President Husayn's ambition.

It is pertinent to ask who allowed President Saddam Husayn to stockpile sophisticated arms. He has been doing this for a decade, shopping for arms in the advanced countries, including the USA and the Soviet Union. Iraq itself does not have the industrial infrastructure to manufacture sophisticated weapons—bombers, missiles, and radar systems, and so on. His inventories kept the Western arms factories working to full capacity and the advanced nations were able to bring unemployment down to the absolute minimum. President Saddam Husayn tried out some of these weapons during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. The advanced nations, including the United States, took no serious notice.

Those who criticize President Saddam Husayn ought to know that Kuwait was a creation of the West. Western imperialism during the last half century or more created nations without regard for the consequences for the region, whether it was West Asia or East Asia. However, President Saddam Husayn was somewhat disingenuous in annexing Kuwait admittedly because of the dispute over land and oil proceeds.

Unfortunately, for the world, the Soviet Union has ceased to be the deterrent it was during the cold war era. It will be recalled that when Britain, France, and Israel attacked Egypt in 1956 over the Suez Canal nationalization issue, a strong warning from the Soviet Union prevented a catastrophe. At that time, leaders of the Afro-Asian Movement, like Jawahar Lal Nehru and Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, carried enormous weight in the councils of the world.

It is a measure of the influence wielded by Israel in U.S. politics that it has managed to get away with its occupation of Arab areas of Palestine for so long. Even the United Nations appears to be heavily influenced by the move to placate Israel. The various formulas canvassed during 15 January [as heard], including the one by the UN secretary general, for resolving the crisis, were ambiguously worded. A specific mention of the occupied areas of Palestine in the formula could perhaps have averted the war. Since the inception of the United Nations, several countries have had occasion to complain to it about aggression. In very few cases has the United Nations acted with as much alacrity as in this case. Moreover, the United States has astutely manipulated the UN Resolution No. 678 to mean that military force could be used to evict Iraq from Kuwait. The resolution merely authorizes and quote, to use all necessary means to uphold and implement the UN resolution, unquote. Nowhere does it say that the military force could be used against Iraq to achieve the objectives of the resolution. An all-out war to enforce a UN resolution was hardly the intention of the framers of the United Nations Charter.

Air India Resumes Flights to Dubayy, Muscat

BK2301035491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jan 91

[Text] Air India will resume its flights from Bombay to Dubayy, Muscat, and Abu Dhabi fom today. The managing director, Mr. S.R. Gupta, announced in Bombay that a special surcharge ranging from 60 to 100 dollars is being imposed to cover the insurance cost for a round trip.

Papers Exchanged on 'Nonattack' of Nuclear Sites

BK2701092891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] India and Pakistan today initiated the exchange of ratification of documents on nonattack on each other's nuclear facilities. The high commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. Abdul Sattar, deposited the instrument of ratification of his country with the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, in New Delhi today. The Indian high commissioner to Pakistan will deposit the document to the Pakistani foreign secretary in a day or two after the latter returns to Islamabad from the Gulf countries. The agreement will come into force on completion of exchange of documents. The agreement on not attacking each other's nuclear installations was signed at Islamabad in December 1988.

'Terrorists,' Security Forces Clash in Kashmir

BK2701160691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, one security personnel was killed and six others injured in terrorist violence in the last 24 hours. The security personnel arrested six subversives, including four Pakistan-trained militants, in the valley. Three security force men were injured in the Sopore town of Baramula District, while two Border Roads Organization employees were injured in Anantnag District. There was an exchange of fire between the terrorists and security personnel in Srinagar's Lal Bazar in which one security force jawan [soldier] sustained injuries.

Legislator Shot, Killed in Uttar Pradesh

BK2801095391 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, a Janata Dal-S MLA [member of Legislative Assembly], Mr. Bhopal Singh, was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen outside the private ward of the government hospital in Meerut this evening [as heard].

Police officials told our Meerut correspondent that Mr. Singh was admitted for treatment in the hospital under police custody after his arrest in a murder case on the seventh of last month. Police have recovered 15 used cartridges from the spot. No arrests have been made so far. Mr. Bhopal Singh was elected to the state assembly from Barnala constituency in Meerut District.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sermon Examines Gulf Events

LD2501155291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by the President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 25 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted] I promise to allocate the second sermon entirely to regional issues, which in my view is a necessity. Our society at present needs this discussion in one sermon.

Our region is a highly important issue now. Perhaps it is the most important regional-global issue of this century. The outcome of the current situation in the region cannot be predicted because of its significant political, economic, and social consequences for the region and the world in the future. This is not an issue that we can approach simply and emotionally and without an overall investigation.

Fortunately, in the esteemed leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's remarks yesterday, almost all the essential and important points were mentioned in a condensed form. I was very impressed by his eminence's remarks. I saw, as we expect from his eminence, how in a clear and aware manner his eminence discussed various aspects of this issue.

It would be justified if the Friday prayers platform, the press, the Voice and Vision [television and radio], and the preachers and writers were to expand on his eminence's remarks and analyze them for our people. What I saw yesterday was one of the historic and highly valuable speeches of his eminence as vali-ye faqih [guardian of the cause].

Here I will discuss what in my view is most important and needs expanding. The axis of my speech will rotate mostly on his eminence's remarks. I will expand on what his eminence said. First, public opinion in our society demands this discussion. No doubt his eminence entered this discussion in light of public opinion. The issue is not something insignificant that we can pass over and overlook easily. The issue is very important, particularly because there were remarks made at other state platforms. Those remarks from the state platform raised another matter in our society. The remarks and their claims may deceive people. They might need more of an explanation to clarify the matter.

Well, the history of the events is clear to you all. You know how it started. On the surface the issue was like this: The Iraqis entered Kuwait in a surprise attack and occupied all of Kuwait. In return the United States promptly entered the arena and said that the Iraqis planned to go further than Kuwait and move toward Saudi Arabia. We are arriving in the region, they said, in order to protect Saudi Arabia. They came to the region under the guise of halting Iraq's advance in the early days. When they stopped Iraq on the Saudi Arabian border, the issue of expelling Iraq from Kuwait was raised. They demanded that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait because the issue of the Iraqi advance toward Saudi Arabia was, apparently, no longer valid.

Then the United Nations and the Security Council entered the arena. The United States wanted to fan the world public, so the Security Council released several successive resolutions, and backed by international regulations, fully justified the U.S. presence in the region. This phase also passed well in their opinion and large forces were dispatched from the developed and powerful countries of the world to the region. In the same Security Council the grounds were prepared to use force to expel Iraq from Kuwait.

To make Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, preliminary steps to resort to force were taken by the Security Council. At some stage it was thought that the threats and announcements that they are ready would be enough to make Iraq withdraw from Kuwait. When they saw that such a force was seriously opposing it and that the UN Security Council had allowed them to resort to force, it was thought the Iraqis would withdraw, especially as Iraq is a middle-ranking country that cannot face so much force in the region.

These assumptions proved to be wrong. The Iraqis remained and said that they were not going. They put forward certain conditions. Of course these were excuses for them to remain. It was definite that Iraq had no intention of withdrawing. In our negotiations with them they told us: This place is ours. We will only discuss the situation after our conditions have been met, and then only with historical documents to see if Kuwait is part of Iraq or not.

Even if that situation were achieved the Iraqis were saying that there was not even a one percent chance for anyone to claim that the documents show that Kuwait is not a part of Iraq. Their documents were so strong that if they were discussed they were sure that any judge would rule in their favor. They had decided to remain and the other side had decided to make Iraq withdraw from Kuwait.

Are these the only aims of the two sides? This is the issue. One of the important issues that we must amplify is simply this: Do the Iraqis really have preconditions to withdraw? Publicly they say that they will withdraw from Kuwait if their conditions are met. In private circles they say seriously that they want to keep Kuwait. Kuwait is part of Iraq and that is all they want in the region.

This is one side of the scenario. The other side is the United States. Let us see if they really want to just push Iraq out of Kuwait and no more. The rest has nothing to do with us whatever may happen. Do they have any other business? As far as we are concerned the answers to these questions are nearly clear. The issue from both sides is not that simple—neither on the U.S. side nor on Iraqi side.

For the United States the issue will definitely not be over with Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. Of course this is one of their aims and they are serious. However, they want more in this region. They want the region to change so that from now on no one can make a show of force regarding the fate of oil in the region. From one dimension, this war, above all else, is a war over oil. It is also a war to oppose Islamic revolutionary forces—of course not Iraq, since Iraq, or at least the Ba'ath Party, is not an Islamic revolutionary force. If it was, it would not have pounded the most revolutionary Islamic rule for eight years. It would not have created that situation. Neither their ideology nor their actions prove that.

We are referring to the real revolutionaries of the region, sincere Muslims who may gradually step in the same direction as Iran and follow Iran. The region's rule may fall in their hands. In such a scenario, Israel, reactionary Zionism, and on the whole, all of the arrogances' tools are under threat. Therefore, its economic dimension is oil and its political dimension is the sincere revolutionary forces.

These are the U.S. aims, to maintain Israel, to guarantee the survival of Israel, and to support those who are U.S. pawns in the region. How can other rulers rely on the United States if the ruler of Kuwait, who was relying on the United States can so easily be toppled and thrown out of Kuwait?

In the past the shah's fate shook the pillars of the U.S. throne in the region. Today Kuwait, tomorrow some other place. Whoever is pinning hopes on the United States in the region has to think about their future. Therefore, for the United States to guard those regimes that they rely on one way or the other is very important. Guarding the regimes that move in the direction of U.S. policy is important. They are putting on a serious and harsh image against those forces that may, in the future, be a nuisance in a world that is apparently moving toward a single pole.

So, that is why the United States has come here. Therefore this does not seem likely. Of course we do not have the benefit of experience to know whether they would have returned home had Iraq decided to withdraw from Kuwait. The way the war is being conducted, however, reveals that this is not their objective. Had the principal issue been Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait then there would have been no need to destroy Iraq's economic resources. There would have been no need to hit so many sources of wealth of the Muslims.

There are other points. We have many other clues. We cannot think that the mere Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait would put an end to the issue. They say that in this case the issue would be closed. They claim that if Iraq withdraws they have nothing else to do there. Of course, lately they have been raising issues such as the need to harness the military forces of Iraq. Moreover, they have had a resolution passed by the UN Security Council which seems to be loaded more than the other things. The resolution says that Iraq must pay for the damages inflicted on the region's countries and other countries on account of its occupation of Kuwait. This means that once Iraq leaves Kuwait they will go at Iraq and tell it: Be quick and pay damages.

Well, this is the Security Council resolution and as such it is binding. Then Iraq will not have the resources to pay reparations. As a result tomorrow they can do what they like against Iraq on the pretext that it is not able to pay reparations. Thus, they have gathered sufficient evidence for themselves. Therefore we cannot rest assured that the United States and its allies have come to the region merely for that. This too is among their objectives.

Meanwhile, let us look at the Iraqis. For whatever reason it deemed justified, Iraq captured Kuwait. Now, if in the region it is accepted as a valid principle that a more powerful state can defeat a weaker state and wipe it off the map, and easily so, then it will justify a lack of security, pure and simple. This means that no small country in the world can look forward to a secure future. Small nations must always pay a toll to the more powerful state.

Obviously the United States is not likely to object to that move because they have acted likewise against Grenada and Panama and other places. The United States is not the one to defend this. We, however, have that right—we, as the Islamic Republic and as one for whom the security of the region is important. We do not need to create turmoil in the region to tell our thoughts to the people. Our thoughts are so solid that we can propagate them among others and especially among Muslims under any conditions. Indeed we can do better under tranquil conditions. In any case, in our view it is totally wrong to allow a country to resort to military force to capture a country and destroy a nation simply to settle a territorial dispute.

Moreover, the atrocities which the Iraqis committed in Kuwait after its occupation cannot be accepted under any terms. Forcing so many people to migrate, making so many people destitute, so much destruction, and so many people killed. How can we justify such things in an Islamic society?

Now I raise an important question for people who advocate our entry into the war to help Iraq. What will happen to us if Iraq were situated on the southern coast of the Persian Gulf? Let us now forget such issues as the fate of other countries, the oil, the security of the region, and other topics. Let us look back to the days when the war was on. Could we have resisted the way we did had Iraqis been stationed then on the southern shore of the Persian Gulf? Could we have made any use of the Persian Gulf? The Iraqis could have made the entire Persian Gulf unsafe for us. Not a single ship of ours could have sailed there. Our navy could not have sailed from Bandar-e 'Abbas toward this direction.

During the war a suggestion was made to Kuwait that it should give Bubiyan Island to Iraq; at that time, in my capacity as commander in the war, I made a statement, after I had discussed the matter with the imam and he had given me his view. I talked to the imam and explained the geographic position. Then the imam told me to announce that, if Kuwait gave Bubiyan Island to Iraq and we captured it from Iraq in the war, we would never return it to Kuwait. The imam told me to say that we could not in any way tolerate an Iraqi presence on the Persian Gulf coastline—at that corner of the Iraq-Kuwait border. The Islamic Republic of Iran, the center of the worldwide Islamic revolution, cannot accept any Iraqi presence on its southern shores, on its coasts where its lifeline is situated. We cannot accept so serious a threat.

In one of the letters which the Iraqi president addressed to me—these letters have been published in Persian and Arabic and you must have seen them—he wrote that Iraq has an 800-km land border and an 800-km sea border with Iran. I asked one of the Iraqi leaders who came here what they meant by the reference to an 800-km sea border; I asked whether it was his personal view, or whether the High Command had approved the reference in the letter, or Saddam had pesonally written it. He said the letters were approved by the High Command; they were not personally prepared. Then I asked what was the meaning of the 800-km issue. He said it probably referred to the south of Kuwait. I told him that could not stretch over 800 km. He said he could not remember.

You see, I raised this issue in our talks with the Iraqis; I will raise it now as well—for those who expect the Islamic Republic to enter the war and support Iraq. Does it not mean that we must go to war to help Iraq remain in Kuwait? After all, that is what Saddam wants. Then our border with Iraq will extend to the proximity of the Strait of Hormoz. Then tomorrow the Persian Gulf will become the Arabian Gulf, and so on. Is that not suicide in your view? [passage omitted]

That is not the case now. Now there is a series of ill intentions on the one side and there are other, even worse, intentions on the other side. Of course we did mention the point, we did say, that the arrogant West and, in particular, America are the mother of all corruptions and the source of all mischief. That is not what others have said. Those are our words. But now that the issue has evolved in such manner, that does not bind Iran to come and involve itself in a suicidal action. We have truly made our advice available in all possible ways. We have sent delegations and held discussions with the Iraqis saying: We do not accept your occupation of Kuwait—You announce that you will leave Kuwait pending a clear solution. Those issues were dealt with in a serious and decisive manner by his eminence the leader in his remarks.

I should mention a certain point. Our people should know who currently decides the Islamic Republic's policies and how it is done. That is interesting for our people to know. I feel sorry when friends inform me that a few colleagues, people undoubtedly with no ill intentions, raise issues that put the Islamic Republic's policies in question. I do not know who in the world will benefit from this. We have a lot of simpleminded, illiterate youngsters and young adults in our country who are not capable of making this kind of analysis. If they form a pessimistic view toward the country's policies, then who will benefit from that? Have we ever thought about this? No clique will benefit from that. No group will benefit from it. Everyone will lose. One of the most satanic policies, strongly adopted by Western propaganda imperialism since his eminence the imam passed away, is to question the aspirations of the imam and our country's policies. That is very important for them. They know what happens if the policies of the system and the imam's ideology are put in question. They are aiming at many targets with one arrow.

If this system succeeds in solving the country's problems, then they, adopting such a policy, have succeeded in separating the imam from the reconstruction period. They will then say that these were not the imam's policies. What are they seeking, those who say the imam's line is fading? What has faded? They come and enlarge on that. That is their job.

If we manage to develop our country after all the destruction it sufered during the war, they come and say, resorting to the existing propaganda, that that was not in line with the imam's policies.

If one day our country is separated from our imam's ideology, no matter how developed and secure, so much harm will be done that we will not be able to put matters right again. [crowd chants: "God is great," "Khamene'i is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel," "Hashemi, Hashemi, may God protect you"]

God protect you. Thank you. May god protect you, you who are the foundations for the security of this system and the imam's ideology.

A large number of those who say that the imam's line is fading are doing so perhaps with good intentions, with sympathy. They see something which bothers them, and they think these issues contradict some of the the imam's messages or what the imam said. I really do not want to accuse anyone of ill intentions, but the Western countries will benefit from it. The principal enemies of the revolution benefit from it. Some people, some young people from the burgeoning forces of the country, the pure Hezbollahis, whose lives are to intertwined with the imam's ideology that they will never separate themselves from it, think now: If the imam's ideology is fading why should we remain on the scene?

Look at the discussions which have appeared in newspapers and other sources during the past few days. One or two persons said we should follow Saddam. The majority said we should not. But the Western newspapers are still repeating the remarks of those few. They do not mention the remarks of the others at all. They do not mention the Majles deputies who say we should not enter the war, they do not mention the newspapers that say we should not enter the war. But they come and enlarge on those other remarks. They do it deliberately. They are satans.

We should be wise and vigilant so as not to so easily let the ideology of the imam... [Hashemi-Rafsanjani pauses] That is not a point which can be raised in our society. Our society should remain such that no one even dares to think of separating it from the ideology of the imam. They have said it so often that it appears to be the case.

This is how our country's policy-making is at present, and our nation should know this. It is based on our constitution. At this point in time, the declaration of war and peace, and the call for the mobilization of forces are the prerogatives of the velayat-e faqih [vice regency of supreme jurisconsult]. It is not up to the government, the Majles, the Council of Guardians, the Expediency Discernment Council, or the judicial apparatus. The constitution has stipulated that this is the prerogative of the leader and vali-e faqih [vice regent of jurisconsult]. The velayat-e faqih, too, has been provided with a strong advisory arm, by that very constitution; it is the Supreme National Security Council. The most influential powers of the country are present in this council: the president, the Majles speaker, the head of the judicial power, the interior minister, the information minister, the head of budget and planning—because of this department's panoramic view over economic affairs—the most high-ranking military officials—from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps to the army, and the defense minister—two representatives of the Vali-e Faqih who are at present Mr. Haj Seyyed Ahmad Aqa [Ahmad Khomeyni] and Dr. Rohani, the political advisers to the president and the leader, as well as the foreign minister. In addition, influential persons are constantly invited as guests. The entire group sits together and reviews the issues, after which they submit their view to the leader in the form of a proposal. If signed by the leader, this becomes an endorsed edict, and he graciously orders its enforcement.

Well, the existence of such an organization is right in terms of law and jurisprudence, and the Vali-e Faqih is the head of it. When he makes a decision, we have no right to question it. We should not say things like: Why are we neutral? Why are we like this, or like that? This is truly a sin. I am sure that our brothers are not willing to commit such a sin; their intention is certainly not to oppose the leader of the National Security council. I am concerned that a number of our young people and our sincere people may give way to doubts as to whether or not this policy of neutrality declared by the system and the leader is correct. It is indeed correct. I have already explained it, and I will expound on it further. Neutrality is a word they sometimes distort and ridicule. Neutrality here does not connote indifference. Neutrality in this war means that we do not want to enter the war, either on the side of the West, or on the side of the Iraqis. We will not become involved in the fighting, we will not go and shed our blood either so that the United States attains victory, achieving its aims—in which case our entering it is inconceivable—or so that Iraqis may remain in Kuwait, which again makes our involvement inconceivable. We would sacrifice our blood, and for what?

In our Islamic history we have had so many similar incidents. In the period of Imam Sadeq [the fifth imam], when Bani-Ummayyeh and Bani-'Abbas [early Islamic caliphs] were fighting each other, and those who supported Bani-'Abbas, such as Abu-Moslem Khorasani, and other revolutionary dignitaries, had taken up arms against the Bani-Ummayyeh criminals. When they wrote to Imam Sadeq asking for his endorsement, the imam took their letter and set it on fire in front of the page who had delivered it, saying: This is your answer; we will not become involved in this war. This was despite the fact that they publicly claimed they were fighting to defend the house of the prophet. In the wars waged between the Sufyanis, the Marwanids, and the Zubayris [Islamic clans] in the wake of the events in Kerbela, they constantly tried to involve Imam-e Sajjad [the fifth imam]. But he refused to give in. Why? Because neither side was fighting for God. Sacrificing one's blood, life, honor, and wealth, and being prepared extensively to destroy people's resources, causing them hardship, is not an easy decision; you cannot say that this is a law, and we will reform it tomorrow. This may push individuals to the point of sacrificing hundreds of noble souls and wreaking havoc. In the course of our war with the Iraqis, in our defense, our duty was so clear that we accepted any incident that happened to us, without any qualms. That was because we were defending Islam, our country, and our revolution.

This war is not the same as the other one, allowing us to tell our children to go and fight. This is indeed an issue which we cannot care for [as heard]. So, what we mean by neutrality is that we will not take part in the war. But declaring neutrality to allow the Americans to perpetrate so many atrocities in Iraq, no. In that regard we have not been neutral. We have issued so many condemnations, we have raised so many complaints. Perhaps there are some who think we should go there and fight to prevent such events.

What we are able to do is to exert pressure and that is what we are doing, to prevent the perpetration of so many atrocities against the people of Iraq. This is something that we have done at every stage. At first we did our utmost to avert a war, but it took place. Now we are initiating efforts at the United Nations, in the region, and in the form of visits and messages, in order to curtail it. This is not like our war. The other protagonist comprises America and the West, and you have seen how they have acted: exactly the same as the Iraqis did against us. Do you recall that, when they fired at our cities during the war, for a long while we refrained from responding in any way? Here, on this very occasion of the Friday prayers, when they fired a missile at Dezfoul, you shouted: Missile for missile. We responded: Be patient, we do not want to fire at the Iraqi people. Was it not so? They shot down our passenger airbus, we did not retaliate. They bombed our cities, we did not retaliate. Only toward the end, we thought: This is enough. They had become bolder. So the imam permitted us to retaliate, on a defensive level, only. Is this how the war is now? Is this how the protagonists are now?

The Islamic Republic, sincere Muslims, cannot take part in this sort of war. Both arguments remain. The esteemed leader said: This side is... [Hashemi-Rafsanjani changes thought] There is no doubt that America is more in the wrong, that it is the greater oppressor, and that it has sinister objectives. As to how this should be remedied, this is through the same path that the leader, the Islamic Republic, and other sincere Islamic forces are pursuing. This is the way we should choose to deal with the issue. [shouts of approval from congregation]

The issue of Palestine: One of the issues discused is the war with Israel. This has been one of the prime objectives of the Islamic Republic and no one can claim to be more serious about this than the Islamic Republic. Even at the time when we ourselves were engaged in a war we, with the imam's permission, dispatched forces to Lebanon to fight against Israel. This was at a time when the need for manpower in our country was acute. Those forces are still there, training Lebanese youths for the world. We were serious then. Now, is the way to fight Israel through what is happening at present? If we were to fight Israel, we should unite the Islamic states first. We should join hands and unite our assets, manpower, armies, and popular forces and concentrate our policies. They would mobilize against us too. If we were to fight against Israel, all those who have come to fight against Iraq—no, not all of them, most of them—would come to confront us. The time is not ripe now.

Thanks to its incorrect policy, Iraq has gathered all the satans in the region. The United States, Britain, France, Canada, Germany, Italy, Spain, and anyone else from anywhere possible, have added some salt to this soup, in order to take a share. They are all supporters of Israel.

Is this the time to fight Israel, when everyone has stood beside us with his finger on the trigger of a gun, a bomb, or a missile? This is in addition to the fact that Iraq has divided the ranks of the Muslims. Thanks to its occupation of Kuwait, it forced some Islamic countries to go over to the other side. You are fighting against each other. What force is left to go and fight against Israel? Well? At least we should not deceive the public; and after all, we should not deceive our own people. Yes, we believe in a war with Israel, jihad with Israel until the liberation of all of Palestine, not only the territories occupied in 1967. It should continue until rejection [tard] of the Zionist regime and until the sovereignty of the people of Palestine. [shouts of approval] Under such circumstances, one should be ready. The assets of the oil-rich states should finance such a war. Our votes in the United Nations should be the political backing for such a war. The Islamic forces should enter the front in unison. The countries bordering Israel should all enter the arena. The countries further away should act as the strategic depth behind the battlelines, and so on. That day will come and the sincere Islamic forces will enter the arena. On the other hand, it is not difficult to ruin a job.

About the Security Council resolutions: As far as the Security Council is working against the presence of the Iraqis in Kuwait, it is all right. But going beyond that, destroying Iraq's economy, killing the Iraqi people, and inflicting misery upon a people who have put up with so much hardship in recent years, thanks to the miscalculation of their leaders—these are not the demands of the Security Council. The Americans are even going beyond the limit that the Security Council has set for them, bearing in mind that the Security Council was obeying their wishes. One should stand against those actions and stop them. One should mobilize world public opinion, as it is mobilized now. Our vote is still the same. From the start, when we discussed the matter in our National Security Council, we came to a conclusion and the leader approved it. We believe our stand has not changed at all; it is that the Iraqis must withdraw from Kuwait definitively and without winning any concessions. Then all the foreign forces should leave the region without any gains. They should leave the region to its people.

Of course this war clarifies some other interesting issues, which are separate matters and should be discussed another time. First, it became clear that the phrase we used to use—paper tiger—is true. It really is a paper tiger. There were many who thought if the United States were to decide, the Iraqis would go immediately. They thought that as soon as they brought their forces into the arena all the Iraqis would fall. We saw that this was not the case. It became clear that this will become a lesson for the Americans not to decide to force relatively powerful countries to leave the arena. This buildup of forces is unprecedented. Never before have so many forces and such sophisticated equipment been gathered in one place. Their weak move against the Iraqis shows that Western colonialism is not what it pretended to be. It used to cause so much awe and create such fear among people. They will have to stay in the region much longer and have to suffer losses before they achieve their objectives. We hope they will never realize their arrogant objectives.

Now they have understood, and felt in their bones, the crime that they committed against the Islamic Republic over the past eight years. Because of their intense animosity toward this revolution and this imam of ours, they closed their eyes. Without looking ahead, they gave everything possible to the Iraqis. When chemical weapons entered the scene, from this very same Friday prayer podium, we warned them; we said: Don't think that the Islamic Republic will be your enemy forever. When the French gave them Super Etendards, their own pilots came and fought against us. They gave the Iraqis Exocets when they had not given them to anyone else. The Russians gave the Iraqis long-range Scuds; they even improved them for the Iraqis so that they could reach Tehran. They were giving them information and were conducting propaganda on behalf of the Iraqis for the destruction of the Islamic Republic. They closed their eyes when our towns and cities were hit, when chemical weapons were used against our people and the Iraqi people. We warned them constantly. We kept telling them: You are making a mistake. Now they have realized. Today, another issue has become clear—the great resistance force of our people. What they are all facing now is the same thing that our youngsters, the Hezbollahi forces, faced with Kalashnikovs and ribbons around their heads. They would force them to withdraw for miles and would take tens of thousands of prisoners of war. Our youngsters from the countryside would go and take their tanks and come back again. They released 3,000 chemical bombs on our boys in that small region of al-Faw. Those boys stayed and held on to al-Faw. All arrogant forces were behind the Iraqis. This is reality; it was all of them against our people.

In the end, they said Iran was defeated. That is not true. It was the imam's wisdom. When the Americans saw that the Iraqis could not advance, they entered the war themselves and all the satans that are in the war today joined them. The imam decided that we ought to stop at that juncture. We stopped and the imam could see what the future held. He planned everything and put an end to the war. Now they realize the power that Iran has. What was that great power that withstood the satans' waves? When they all thought that the Iranians had been defeated, you remember those final days of the war, suddenly our boys poured into the fronts from all over the country—500,000 to 600,000 fresh troops came to the front and forced the Iraqis to accept the cease-fire. The bravery of the Islamic Republic was clear even in those moments. We had decided to stop fighting.

Propaganda was one of the issues that featured in the leader's speech. It is an important issue that we cannot put aside. Now, the West is screaming and shouting that the Iraqis are showing captured pilots on television, that they are forcing them to talk, and that this is against human rights and laws. This is a joke. The pilot that has come and dropped bombs on peoples' houses—they catch him, put him on television, and he says he regrets what he has done. What is the big deal about that, why are you mourning? Don't you do the same thing? If you found an Iraqi that will talk in your defense, wouldn't you put him on television to say what he has to say? When the Kuwaitis became refugees, didn't you take them to the United Nations and the American Congress? Did they not cry for Kuwait? Well, this is exactly the same thing. You put out propaganda and your rival does the same. See what type of savages we are dealing with. They say we are against human rights. For twelve years we had to deal with these arrogant people. See how they behave. They said it themselves, they have flown 12,000 sorties and destroyed a country. Their rival has put one of their pilots, who is either scared or really regrets what he has done, on television. They have brought this up against the Iraqis. This shows that they are irrational. [Arabic phrase omitted] It shows their weakness.

In any case, all the events occuring in the region are condemned as far as we are concerned; both the Iraqi action and their action. The crime that is committed against the Iraqi people today should be more severely condemned. The battlefront is a different matter. We did not agree that the Americans should come here and fight a war. It should have been left to the people of the region. If it had been left to them, if they had not interfered, these events would not have occured. If only you had not pressured the Islamic Republic so much. With the presence of such a republic, no one would have dared take such outrageous action on her borders. [crowd chants slogans "God is great," "Death to America and Israel"]

Right now, what is the solution? If this is stopped at any point, it will be beneficial. Come and gather round, in the United Nations Security Council, in the region, it does not matter. Let Iraq understand that she cannot remain in Kuwait. You must realize that you cannot achieve your arrogant aims. Do not cause so much trouble to the people of the region. Stop this hostility; let the people of the region solve their problems. [Koranic verses omitted]

Urges Islamic Unity

NC2501214191 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Friday Arabic sermon delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 25 January—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God, and peace on God's Prophet, family, and the faithful.

The Islamic nation faced with bitterness last week the events in the Persian Gulf region and the negative consequences of this sedition in our region. This sedition will only lead to corruption, death, ruin, and the shedding of blood. No good, peace, or prosperity are expected from it. The forces of arrogance have massed their armies in this region and committed the ugliest crimes so as to impose their hegemony on the vital Persian Gulf. They have done so with the support of the Zionist entity and reactionaries to deal a blow to progressive and Islamic forces and to secure easy and cheap energy. They want to maintain their arrogant hegemony, prevent the peoples of the region from exploiting their resources in a legitimate and sound way, and to stop them from managing their societies on the basis of their free will, and from establishing sound relations in the region. They also have other evil aims.

On the other hand, Iraq's rulers carried out this adventure for the purpose of expanding their territories, controlling Kuwait's vast oil wealth, and for acquiring strategic positions on the coasts of the Persian Gulf so as to intimidate other peoples and governments in the region and be in a position to impose their expansionist ambitions. Their adventure has caused suffering for the oppressed peoples in Kuwait, Iraq, and others in the region and has brought catastrophes and calamities to them. We really cannot see any noble aim to justify all these calamities and tribulations.

On the basis of its Islamic revolutionary duties, the Islamic Republic of Iran has declared its clear position right from the start of this crisis. It warned the two sides against continuing their blackmail and explained the negative aims and grave consequences of this crisis. Iran made the necessary efforts to prevent war. But, unfortunately, no one listened and no conscience responded.

We have explained that jihad against the Zionist entity has its own methods. Aggression against others disrupts the ranks of the Islamic forces, incites local wars, and prompts Israel's protectors to land their forces on a large scale in our region, thus providing justifications for committing other aggressions by the enemy. Such a situation does not achieve our aim of holy jihad against Zionists. Jihad to save Palestine needs, primarily, unity of the Islamic forces and close coordination and cooperation among them because, in our war against Israel, we will inevitably face all the satans and forces of evil and arrogance.

After war erupted, we exerted every possible effort to ensure that it would not spread and to reduce its negative consequences. We expect all Islamic and sincere nationalist forces to cooperate with us in this. I pray God almighty to guide us in this road. The road to salvation is to end the occupation of Kuwait, to withdraw the foreign forces from the region, and to begin negotiations to resolve disputes. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be with you.

Emami-Kashani on 'Wrong-Versus-Wrong War'

LD1801113291 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—A senior Iranian cleric said here Friday that Iran prefers not to enter the devastating war in the Persian Gulf since it "is a wrong-versus-wrong war and justice will not go into this conflict."

"Since the outset of the crisis the Islamic Republic tried to solve the issue peacefully but these efforts got nowhere because of the obstinacy of (global) arrogance and Iraq," Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani told a Friday prayer gathering in Tehran.

Terming the justifications offered by the warring sides as "baseless and untrue," Kashani said "the claim of the U.S. and its allies that they are supporting the weaker party (Kuwait) is not true.

"If they were honest in their claim they should have supported the oppressed nation of Palestine instead of fully backing the Quds occupying regime and giving it a free hand to commit more crimes."

Kashani, a jurist member of the Council of Guardians, said such problems emanated from "carnal desires, selfishness and hegominism."

The substitute Friday prayer leader of Tehran reiterated that Iran was deeply sorry that some innocent people especially Muslims were being killed in the war, and was continuing its efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict.

"The Saudi Government by helping Iraq in its war against us caused a large number of people to be killed and now powers, governments and nations are suffering from this conflict," he said.

Reiterating Iran's anti-arrogance stance, the ayatollah made it clear that the Iranian people have time and again shown this stance in practice and their enmity with imperialism and Zionism would never abate.

He expressed hope that Iraq by pulling its forces out of Kuwait would strip global arrogance of its excuse for its presence in the region and in that case all Muslims would be mobilized to drive arrogance out of the region.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Regrets Gulf Hostilities

LD1701035191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] In the wake of today's attack by the multinational forces on Iraq, our correspondent contacted the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the head of the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC], Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to ask his views about this morning's events. The head of the SNSC stressed: We received the news of the outbreak of the war. While expressing our deep regret for the start of the clashes and human losses, we consider it as a blow to human life and resources of the region, and we are watching all movements carefully. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: We are sorry that various efforts failed to prevent the start of clash. Iran did its best in this regard.

President Terms Attack 'Historical Catastrophe'

LD1701115191 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan 17, IRNA—In a meeting with a group of common people here Thursday Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani described Thursday's attack on Iraq by the U.S. and its allies as a "Historical Catastrophe."

He deplored the current developments in the Persian Gulf as well as "the killing of Muslim people with international sanction."

He said in the past Kuwait and Iraq brought the US forces into the Persian Gulf, but that their plot was neutralized by Imam Khomeyni.

"This time," he said, "We are witnessing their (the Americans) ominous presence (in the region), and the destruction of the sources of Muslims and the killing of Muslims on the basis of international sanctions. Now it is necessary that the horrible course of the present developments and their future inroads of those haughty forces be corrected and checked."

The meeting of the group of visitors with the president was to mark the 36th anniversary of the execution of Muslim militant in Iran Navab Safavi, and to pay tribute to him.

Rafsanjani said to the visiting people: "Unfortunately here we have a bitter experience. Since early morning today we have been witnessing the waves of attacks by the U.S. and multi-national bombers from the base of arrogance and led by the leader of the imperialism which is destroying a Muslim nation, and ruining the resources of Muslims."

Rafsanjani Calls for ICO Meeting on Gulf War

LD2001120591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Bambang Sudarsono, the new Indonesian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, before noon today.

During the meeting, the new Indonesian ambassador presented his credentials, conveyed the greetings of the Indonesian president, government, and nation, and said: It is a great honor for me to begin my service in a big Islamic country, and I hope that I will be able to be of service in expanding and extending the desired cooperation between Iran and Indonesia.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani then expressed gratitude for the warm greetings of the Indonesian president and nation, welcomed the expansion of cooperation between the two Islamic countries of Iran and Indonesia, and said: Current conditions in our region show that cooperation and close and friendly ties between Islamic countries should be expanded as much as possible.

Referring to events since the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, our president said: Unfortunately, these kinds of events brought about the ugly presence of arrogant forces and this uneven, ruinous and cruel war. It is the duty of all Islamic countries to cooperate toward the rapid removal of this plague from the Persian Gulf region and the resolution of matters.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani ended his remarks by expressing anxiety over the increased annoyance caused by the Zionist regime as a result of recent events and about the spreading of the war, and said to the new Indonesian ambassador: We call for a rapid meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] so we can extinguish the fire of this plague in the Persian Gulf region with the cooperation of all Islamic countries. We expect your country to cooperate with us on this matter.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Gorbachev Message

LD1901113391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] In a written message, Mr. Gorbachev, the Soviet president, asked President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to continue his efforts to prevent the spread of conflict in the region.

According to the Central News Unit, the message was submitted by Mr. Gudev, the Soviet ambassador in Tehran, to Mr. Besharati, our country's deputy foreign minister, this morning. In the message, the Soviet president expressed his deep regret over the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf and further expressed his worry over the spread of war in the region.

In the meeting, the deputy foreign minister laid emphasis on the basic positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the region's crisis and said: We deeply regret the outbreak of war. We shall remain completely neutral and shall use our all efforts and influence to stop, or at least prevent the spread, of this destructive war.

Furthermore, the position of the two countries concerning the region's crisis were described to the other side and the latest developments of the region were examined.

Karrubi 'Strongly' Condemns U.S. Aggression

Says Next Targets 'Islamic'

LD1701152291 Tehran IRNA in English 1330 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—The U.S. has entered the Persian Gulf region to safeguard its vested interests and not regional peace and security, Majles Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Mahdavi-Karrubi said here today.

In a meeting with leader of Tunisia's 'al-Nahdha' movement, Rashid al-Ghannushi, Hoj. Mahdavi-Karrubi termed current regional events "worrying, crucial and fateful".

He strongly condemned the aggression of the U.S. and its allies against Iraq as a measure against the Muslims' interests.

Al-Ghannushi described regional situation as "very critical" and said the Western assault on the Islamic region of the Persian Gulf would have great impacts on the future of the region and its Muslim peoples.

"If the U.S. triumphs in its attack (on Iraq), Islamic movements and the Islamic Republic of Iran are likely to be its next targets," he warned.

Yasin Imam, one of the leaders of the Sudanese National-Islamic Front, was also present in the meeting.

Presents Gulf Peace Plan

LD2701121191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Mr. Karrubi, the Majles speaker, took part in a news conference this morning in which he spoke to domestic and foreign reporters about his views on the war in the Persian Gulf. According to our reporter, Mr. Karrubi expressed regret and concern about the killing of innocent Muslim Iraqis and about the destruction of Muslim wealth and resources by the United States and other multinational forces. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any form of aggression by any country or army against another. We therefore condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and we also consider the military presence of the United States and its allies to be an act of aggression. We believe that they, too, should leave the region as soon as possible.

At the news conference Mr. Karrubi noted: This war is about power, and our neuturality does not mean, as the eminent leader [Khamene'i] said, that we have forgotten the Iraqi nation. It means, rather, that we will not get involved in the war. He added: Saddam is not here to fight the Zionists. Nevertheless, the problems he is causing for the Zionists pleases and draws the attention of Muslims.

At the news conference, the Majles speaker announced his proposed plan for bringing hostilities to an end. It was mentioned in the plan—which in his words, is his own personal plan—the need for an immediate ceasefire; the cessation of all military operations by the two sides in the air, on land, and at sea; the simultaneous and full withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces from the region and Iraqi military forces from Kuwait; and the deployment of armies from Islamic countries to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The plan also stresses the need to establish a committee comprised of Islamic countries to supervise implementation of the plan. Mr. Karrubi then said the following about guaranteeing implementation of the plan: In accordance with our Islamic and human duty to prevent further killings of Muslims and destruction of the human resources and wealth of the region's Muslim nations, we have drawn up this plan and are seriously pursuing it. We will ask for the assistance of parliaments throughout the world for implementation of the plan and we will help the Iraqi people in any way we can.

Yazdi Calls for Security Plan, End to Gulf War

Holds Meeting in Mashhad

LD1901115991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judicial power, in a meeting today with the Khorasan province's judges and Ministry of Justice personnel in Mashhad, said: In the present circumstances of war in the Persian Gulf, that war should be stopped as soon as possible. After the withdrawal from Kuwait and the alien forces from the region, the Persian Gulf security plan should be implemented by regional states.

According to the Central News Unit report, Mr. Yazdi, the head of the judicial power, who is in Mashhad following his tour of the provinces of Yazd and Kerman, today in a meeting with the judicial personnel of the Khorasan Province appointed Mr. Zia' Mir'emadi as Mashhad's prosecutor general.

Reiterates 'Correct' Policy

LD2001234791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Mr. Yazdi, head of the Judicial Branch, at a meeting today of the branch's officials, pointed out that the battle for power in the Persian Gulf is essentially over the material interests of the power-seekers. He said: The wise and correct policy adopted by the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to be that Iraq should unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait; there should be an end to the war in the region; and the foreign forces should withdraw from the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Yazdi explained: Diplomatic efforts being pursued to end the war in the Persian Gulf are following their own course. He warned the Zionist regime not to take advantage of the present situation.

In continuation of the session, the head of the Judicial Branch presented a report on his trip to the provinces of Kerman and Yazd. He pointed to the lawless deeds of outlaws and narcotics smugglers in these regions. He said: The activities undertaken by officials in the face of these acts of mischief have been substantial. With the continuation of this trend, the problems of lawlessness and narcotics smugglers in the region will be solved in accordance with Islam's instructions. [passage omitted]

Deplores 'Barbaric Attacks'

LD2701190691 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—The judiciary head said on Sunday that the Persian Gulf conflict was not a war between Islam and unbelievers, but in fact "a war based on power struggle and aggression, without anything to do with religion or divine values."

However, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said "the savage air raids by the U.S.-led Western axis on the resources, wealth, life and property of the Iraqi people is not a justfication for driving Iraq out of Kuwait."

He pointed out that the U.N. mandate allowing use of force to force out Iraq from Kuwait did not mean subjecting the life and property of the Iraqi people to "barbaric attacks."

The ayatollah said the Islamic Republic has intensified its efforts to end the war so as to prevent Islam, Muslims and humanity from heavy sufferings.

He also reminded the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) of its responsibility towards those wounded by the Western bombing.

As part of its humanitarian duty, Iran has ordered its Red Crescent Society to despatch medical aid for the wounded people, he said.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1352 GMT on 27 January adds in a Tehran-datelined report: "Iran's Red Crescent

Society [RCS] has decided to donate foodstuff including bread, dates, powdered milk and biscuits for the war-sticken people in Iraq.

["The move is taken in line with a decision by the Supreme National Security Council and in view of the difficult conditions caused by the food and medicine shortage in Iraq. The RCS said it has informed the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies and Iraq's Red Crescent Society of its humanitarian decisions in separate messages."]

Larijani Urges Iraq, U.S. To End 'Expansionism'

LD2201154291 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA—A senior Iranian official on Tuesday said that the only way to establish peace in the Persian Gulf region is tied to a decision by the warring sides to quit their policy of expansionism and extortion.

"If Iraq and the U.S. give up their claim to be the gendarme and the superpower in the region, two months later the situation will become clear, but in case such ways of thinking still exist we will face difficulties in the region", Mohammad Javad Larijani said.

Larijani, a political advisor to the foreign minister, made the remarks in a speech to the international seminar on the Persian Gulf which opened at the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies this morning.

He expressed hope the conflict would end in such a manner that both Iraq and the U.S. and its allies would come to realize their limitations.

"In that case," he added, "impediments to a collective security (system) will be removed and with regards to Europe's stance one can expect new security arrangements to gain much better position."

Larijani continued: "Of course, this was not a just solution but it was a way that could prevent the deterioration of the situation".

Reiteraing Iran's neutral stance towards the conflict, he made it clear that "Saddam (Husayn) has not embroiled himslef in the hostilities because of Islamic motives or to defend Islamic goals. And with the firing of some missiles at Israel one cannot restrict the profound struggles of Muslims to the Zionist regime alone."

Larijani said if the ongoing war in the Persian Gulf had been a right-versus-wrong conflict, Islamic Iran would have immediately interfered.

However, the Islamic Republic cannot approve of the presence of the U.S. and other Western forces in the region, he added.

Pointing to Turkey's policies vis-a-vis the crisis, Larijani said that Ankara should not make the situation more complicated.

He stressed that Iran was for Iraq's territorial integrity and "a united country to be administered by the Iraqi people."

The audience also heard a Soviet participant from the Center for Incrnational Studies of Moscow comparing the Persian Gulf conflict to the early years of the Second World War. He said for the second time in a decade [as received] humanity has been exposed to a serious crisis.

Ministry Asserts 'No Intention' To Enter Iraq

LD1801112591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] According to the report of the Central News Unit, the newspaper MILLIYET published in Turkey, quoting that country's president, wrote: In case of an Iraqi defeat, if the Iranian and Syrian armies make a move, Turkey will also enter Iraq.

In connection with the publication of that news, Mr. Sarmadi, our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman, announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran has no intention of entering Iraqi territory and any kind of claims in that regard are unfounded and baseless.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as announced repeatedly, strongly believes in the necessity for preservation of Iraqi sovereignty and does not accept any geographical change in the region.

The spokesman of our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry added: We believe that, in the current conditions, instead of raising provocative issues, all efforts should be concentrated on limiting the boundaries of war and on ending it in order to avoid more casualties and damage.

Reiterates Neutrality

LD2101085391 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 21, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry reiterating Iran's neutrality in the Persian Gulf war called for immediate cessation of hostilities and the need for a peaceful solution which will ensure withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and foreign forces from the region.

The ministry in a statement issued early Monday said that in the past four days because of censorship, reports on air raids and missile attacks of the U.S. and its allies on Iraq had created an inaccurate picture of the military operations.

However, now on the basis of reliable information gathered from the bombarded areas, it is clear that the U.S. attacks have gone beyond military targets and include economic resources and in certain cases the Iraqi cities and its Muslims and innocent people.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran considering the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait as unacceptable, condemns attacks of the U.S. and its Western allies on civilian areas which have taken lives of a number of the Iraqis."

The statement added that any attack on cities, the Islamic holy sites and the civilian installations inside Iraq must be avoided. "Operations for liberation of Kuwait, under no condition can justify perishing of innocent people and destruction of economic resources which belong to the Iraqi Muslim nation," said the statement.

It warned that the Zionist regime by taking advantage of the present critical conditions is intensifying its attacks on the Palestinians and intifada and by arming itself with advanced American weapons, plans to reach its expansionist objectives in the region.

Pledging full support to the aspirations of the Palestinian people, the statement warned the Zionist regime against any covetous plans.

It expressed regrets that efforts of the Islamic Republic and certain other countries to bring a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis failed and flames of the war engulfed the region and put on the verge of a full-scale war with an unpredictable future.

Condemns Pollution of Gulf

LD2801001991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran said in connection with the events of the past few days, which have led to the severe pollution in the Persian Gulf: The disturbing events that led to the extensive and unprecedented pollution of the environment in the Persian Gulf, as well as unmeasurable damage, has given rise to extreme concern and anxiety in the international community, notably the concern of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has the longest coastline in the Persian Gulf.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning this act, seriously expects that international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Program, the International Maritime Organization, and the Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment will—under these grave and sensitive circumstances—take effective and immediate measures toward the fulfillment of their duties to examine the dimensions of the disaster, combat the pollution, and rectify the damage caused by the pollution. [passage omitted]

Foreign Affairs Official Notes War Concern

LD2401180891 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Jan 91

[Text] Mr. Va'ezi, the deputy foreign affairs minister in charge of European and American affairs, today in a gathering of the Western countries' ambassadors in Tehran, announced the strong concern of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the spread of the war in the region. He elaborated on our country's neutral stance vis-a-vis the war and termed the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled neutral stance as the center point of its policies toward the two conflicting sides.

Mr. Va'ezi expressed the hope that aggression is uprooted in the region as soon as possible so that no pretext is left for the presence of alien forces in the region.

The deputy foreign affairs minister also reiterated the need for preservation of Iraqi sovereignty and stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's rejection of any change in the region's geographic borders. Finally, Mr. Va'ezi announced our country's concern over any action which would go beyond the Security Council resolutions.

Iraqi Warplanes Make 'Emergency Landings'

LD2601110291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] This morning, a number of Iraqi warplanes made emergency landings in one of the airports of our country.

According to the Central News Unit, the Secretariat of the [Supreme] National Security Council confirmed this report, and added: A number of Iraqi warplanes appeared over the skies of the Islamic Republic of Iran in three waves this morning. They announced emergency conditions and asked permission for an emergency landing. Air Force fighters took to the air as soon as the Iraqi aircraft appeared over Iran.

According to this report, one of the Iraqi planes caught fire and exploded while it was landing in one of our country's airports. Two more of the Iraqi planes were damaged.

The Central News Unit, citing the Secretariat of the National Security Council, added: There were seven [Iraqi] aircraft in total. The interrogation of the pilots has already started and is continuing.

The Secretariat of the National Security Council stressed Iran's neutral position and warned the Iraqi Govenment and all sides involved in the Persian Gulf war that it [the Council] will severely confront any action that may violate the Islamic Republic of Iran's neutral stance.

Security Council Discusses Aircraft

LD2601163191 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council met this evening under the chairmanship of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, with the participation of all members, advisors, and high-ranking military commanders. During the meeting the latest developments in the Persian Gulf war, and the emergency landing of Iraqi military aircraft, were discussed. In view of the Islamic Republic's neutral stance in the war, the Supreme Council warned the engaged parties against any use of Iranian airspace. If any aircraft, from either of the warring sides, makes an emergency landing in Iranian territory, it will be confiscated until the end of the war.

In view of the report by the Islamic Republic's Red Crescent about difficult conditions arising from the shortage of foodstuffs and medicine as a result of the war in Iraq, it was made incumbent upon the Red Crescent to act in helping the Iraqi nation, with the cooperation of the International Red Cross, within the framework of international regulations, and with the assistance of other countries.

UN Envoy Comments

LD2701075991 Tehran IRNA in English 0654 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 27, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow either of the warring parties in the Persian Gulf to use the Iranian air space, said Iran's U.N. Envoy Kamal Kharrazi here Saturday evening.

In an interview with the CNN here Iran's permanent envoy to the U.N. said any foreign plane which ignores Iran's neutrality in the war and intrudes the Iranian air space will be dealt with and will be confiscated upon landing in Iran.

Kharrazi was commenting on Saturday landing of seven Iraqi fighters in Iran under emergency circumstances. He said the planes had landed in Iran after their fuel had ran out.

He said Iran is against expanding the scope of the war in the region but if a threat is posed on Iran's national security, the country will definitely defend itself.

The Iranian diplomat added that following the Saturday incident the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and was protested against violation of the Iranian air space.

Kharrazi reiterated Iran's neutrality in the war and stressed Tehran will avoid getting involved in the war but is ready to confront any threat on its national security.

Asked whether Iraq has requested any assistance from Iran, he said no and added that in case of such a request it will be turned down.

Whether Iran plans to grant political asylum to the pilots of the Iraqi planes, he said that on the basis of the Geneva Convention the pilots will be kept in Iran throughout the war and will be handed over once it ends.

On contamination of the Persian Gulf waters, Kharrazi said that during the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war the Persian Gulf waters were contaminated several times in Iraqi and U.S. attacks on the Iranian oil installations.

Asked if the current oil slick was caused by Iraq, he said it was likely because both the warring parties are formulating their strategy according to their potentials. He added that it was not clear whether the oil spill was caused by attacks on oil tankers off in Kuwait or Kuwait's al-Ahmadi oil installations. [sentence as received]

Tehran To Offer 'Humanitarian' Aid to Iraq

NC2701203391 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Supreme Council for National Security held a special meeting yesterday evening against the background of the serious regional situation. A grinding war is being waged in lands that are very close to Muslim Iran. This has made such meetings of the Supreme Council for National Security an ordinary occurrence. These meetings, which are chaired by the president of the Republic, are attended by senior officials and political and military decisionmakers in the Islamic Republic.

Yesterday's meeting produced a number of important decisions. One of these decisions concerns the Islamic Republic's intention to offer assistance to the Muslim Iraqi people through the Iranian Red Crescent Society and in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. As a matter of course, the assistance will be humanitarian rather than military. That is because the Islamic Republic does not believe that right is being vindicated in this war. The Islamic Republic also does not believe that there are heavenly objectives for this war. Furthermore, it does not think that there are any holy objectives for this war. Because of this, it has adopted a neutral stance and repeatedly declared this stance through Iranian officials.

The neutrality of an Islamic state and the demonstration of its neutral position acquires a delicate and critical significance when another Islamic state is attacked. We acknowledge that the Iraqi leadership is the party that made the decision to launch an aggression against Kuwait. Similarly, we admit that the status quo was imposed on the Iraqi people by the Iraqi leadership. The Western countries currently attacking Iraq are also well aware that this war was imposed on the Iraqi people. Nevertheless, these countries are attacking Iraqi civilians. Meanwhile, they claim to be eager to uphold human rights. If this eagerness is true, why then this aggression?

As for the reports coming in from Iraq, they all speak of the Iraqi people's sufferings thanks to the shortages of food, medicine, and water. The Western aggressors, headed by the aggressive United States, do not hesitate to bombard schools, houses, and baby milk plants. What have innocent Iraqi children done to be killed by U.S. and Western bombs and missiles? What have Iraqi women, children, and elderly people done to become victims of the alliance between the Saudi regime and the enemies of Islam?

News reports coming in from Iraq every day speak of the cruel sufferings of Iraqi civilians. Muslim Iran, which sees its fraternal Iraqi people exposed to a real massacre, cannot ignore the sufferings of this people just because it is maintaining a neutral stance. Iran has proved in the past, during an eight-year war which was imposed on it, how sympathetic it is toward the Iraqi people. Now that the Iraq-Iran war has ended, and the Iraqi people are subjected to a flagrant aggression by the enemies of Islam who have united against them, Muslim Iran should assist them. Yes, it should assist its brothers in religion. That is why the Supreme Council for National Security, the highest decisionmaking echelon in Muslim Iran, has decided to offer the Iraqi people assistance through the Red Crescent Society. The assistance expected to be offered to the Iraqi people by the Red Crescent will be purely humanitarian, because these days the Iraqi people need first and foremost food and medicine. As for the Islamic Republic, which has long, common borders with Iraq, it is capable of securing the arrival of such assistance in Iraq through the Red Crescent Society.

Nonetheless, Iran also decided that such assistance will be offered through cooperation and coordination with the ICRC. It goes without saying that the announcement by Muslim Iran of its gesture regarding the provision of such an assistance and aid does not mean that this provision of assistance should be exclusively confined to Iran. Our country's announcement that it will cooperate with the ICRC in this regard means that the other countries that maintain ties and links with the ICRC and wish to offer humanitarian assistance to Iraq should trust the efforts being made by the Iranian Red Crescent in this regard.

Through the statements made by Western states, one can deduce that this imposed war, which lacks any objective and which will fail to produce any glory, will continue for several more weeks. If this is so, we will then witness the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis over the next few days. A large number of Iraqi women, children, and elderly people will lose their lives in this unjust and grinding war. A large number of Iraqi children will also be orphaned. Similarly, a large number of Iraqi women will be widowed. Is there a way to halt these crimes, which will certainly grow during the next few days? While supporting the Islamic and humanitarian decision made by the Supreme Council for National Security, we hope that this destructive war will be brought to an end as soon as possible. We hope that security and tranquillity will be restored to the Iraqi people, who have suffered a great deal.

Iraq Islamic Revolution Chief Meets Velayati

LD2701210591 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqir Hakim today hailed Iran's efforts for ending the Persian Gulf war.

Hoj. Hakim in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati elaborated on the internal situation in Iraq and termed as "crimes" the "disastrous bombardment" of civilians and economic sites in Iraq by the U.S.-West European axis.

He also praised the recent decision of Iran's Supreme National Security Council on the readiness of the Islamic Republic to send medical and food supplies for the Muslim people of Iraq.

Velayati in reply said the Iraqi people are the main victims of the Persian Gulf war, and it should be stopped immediately.

Ministry Says Iraqi Refugees Need No Visas

LD2701190191 Tehran IRNA in English 1431 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry official Saturday said war refugees arriving in Iran from Iraq did not require entry visas.

Head of the Persian Gulf crisis headquarters in the Foreign Ministry 'Ali Khorram told IRNA that the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad had not been instructed to issue visas for this group of people. Moreover, the situation in Baghdad was not normal so that the people could go through visa procedures through the embassy.

So far, he said, more than 800 foreign nationals including diplomats have entered Iran through Kohsrawi border point west of the country. "All diplomats residing in Iraq willing to leave that country will be issued transit visas at border points. If they want to stay in the Iranian capital, they can receive temporary diplomatic identification cards through the protocol office of the ministry."

Khorram said among others who asked for temporary or transit visas were members of international organisations such as the United Nations, UNIIMOG [United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group] and the Red Cross.

Personnel of foreign companies engaged in development projects in Iraq, he added, will be temporarily lodged in camps set up in border areas for this purpose. Later their companies could make necessary arrangements to return them home.

Iraqi and Kuwaiti nationals, Iranians residing in Iraq and Kuwait and ordinary foreign nationals residing in Iraq will be transferred to camps and later to a foreign country if they have relatives there.

These people will be lodged in permanent camps (probably under the U.N. supervision) if they have no relatives to take care of them or if they are not in a good financial position.

So far diplomats from Somalia, Afghanistan, Algeria, Mauritania and Yugoslavia and students from Yemen and Bahrain as well as 120 Soviet military advisers have crossed over Khosrawi check point, he said.

Also, four Iraqi nationals intending to go to the United Arab Emirates, and nationals of Algeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Eritrea and South Korea have entered Iran [words indistinct] the Foreign Ministry official said.

First Iraqi War Refugees Arrive, Seek Asylum

LD2801105591 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Mehran, Ilam Prov., Jan. 28, IRNA—36 Iraqi war refugees arrived in Iran through Mehran checkpoint in this western province overnight and sought asylum.

The Iraqis who are members of three families were lodged in a camp set up here by Iran's Red Crescent Society.

The group are the first seeking asylum in the Islamic Republic since the outbreak of the Persian Gulf war Jan. 17.

Besharati, Kuwaiti Envoy Discuss Gulf Crisis

LD2601113591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] The Kuwaiti ambassador met Mr. Besharati, our country's deputy foreign minister, this morning. He stressed the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the region and an end to the Persian Gulf crisis.

The Central News Unit reports that during the meeting, the Kuwaiti ambassador expressed his government's appraisal and gratitude toward the basic and brave positions of his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president. Concerning the current trend in Persian Gulf war, he added: These clear positions will definitely be decisive and important for the future of the region.

According to the report, in response Mr. Besharati said: The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to advocate the rapid withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait in order to minimize human and economic suffering. Iran also advocates the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf region. The security of the region is a responsibility of the countries in the region.

Kuwaiti Envoy Lauds Neutrality

LD2801103591 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tehran Fawzi 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim said that Kuwait alone cannot expel Iraq and therefore, has provided the U.S. with the expenses of the Persian Gulf war. In an interview with the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI published Monday Al-Jasim added that the Kuwaiti Government in exile is to give some dlrs. 13.5 billion to the U.S. to run the war.

On proposal by Iraq's U.N. Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari on settling the crisis through political means, Al-Jasim said that Kuwait accepts nothing short of unconditional withdrawal of Iraq. As for a statement by a Kuwaiti minister calling on the U.S. to deploy nuclear weapons against Iraq, Al-Jasim said that it was a personal view for "propaganda purposes."

Asked whether Al-Sabah will return to power once the country is liberated, the Kuwaiti diplomat stressed that in a meeting attended by Kuwaiti groups including the opposition before the outbreak of the war, all agreed on validity of country's constitutional law.

He said the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel is a psychological war which have been to the advantage of Israel because the attacks have prompted more U.S. aid to Israel. He added that there was no connection between the Kuwaiti assistance to the U.S. and the Washington aid to Israel.

Al-Jasim stressed that his country supports the Palestinian cause and in the past has given substantial amount of aid to chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat.

He also lauded Iran for its positive stand vis-a-vis the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and for its hospitality toward the Kuwaitis in Iran. He reiterated that his country regrets its past stand towards Iran and tries to make [words indistinct].

Syria's Khaddam Arrives in Tehran on Visit

NC2301191991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 23 Jan 91

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tehran, 23 Jan (SANA)—[Syrian] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Tehran at 1500 today to participate in the meetings of the higher Syrian-Iranian joint committee.

The delegation was received at the airport by Dr. Hasan Habibi, Iran's first vice president; Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; senior Iranian presidency and Foreign Ministry officials; and Ahmad al-Hasan, Syria's ambassador in Tehran and the embassy staff.

Mr. Khaddam made a statement to journalists. He said that his and the accompanying delegation's visit to Tehran falls within the framework of cooperation and consultation between the two countries and also within the framework of the higher Syrian-Iranian joint committee, in order to discuss the serious conditions in the region and to exchange views on them.

Answering a question, Mr. Khaddam said: "Syria and Iran agree on the need to preserve the unity of Iraq and its people and to resist any action that might endanger Iraq's territorial integrity."

Responding to a Turkish official's comment to the effect that Turkey will interfere if Syria and Iran interfere, Khaddam said: Syria and Iran are concerned about Iraq's territorial integrity and they have no intention of interfering in Iraq's affairs. We are pleased with the Turkish officials' statements that Turkey has no ambitions in Iraq.

On a possible Israeli military operation against Iraq, Khaddam said: An Israeli military operation against Iraq is a possibility because the firing of some missiles at Palestine does not mean that there is a war between Iraq and Israel. But there will be war when the Iraqi Army is with us in confronting the Zionist enemy. You know that the Iraqi Army is in Kuwait. In any case, developments will be discussed as they come.

Dr. Habibi said in a similar statement that the visit to Iran by Mr. Khaddam and the accompanying delegation comes within the framework of the contacts Iran holds with fraternal and friendly countries to discuss the serious state of affairs in the Gulf region.

Dr. Habibi reiterated Iran's rejection of Iraq's occupation of the State of Kuwait and its call for the immediate Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwaiti territories.

He also called for further efforts to terminate the destructive war in the Gulf and pointed out that the exchange of delegations between the two countries takes place when the need arises for consultations on issues of mutual interest, particularly on the volatile situation in the Gulf region and on bilateral relations.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

To Discuss Ties, Gulf War

LD2701142391 Tehran IRNA in English 1229 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri arrived here Sunday afternoon for talks on mutual relations and the Persian Gulf War.

Al-Masri was greeted at Tehran airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

He is carrying a message for President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani from King Husayn.

The Jordanian foreign minister in an interview in Amman on Saturday described his Tehran visit as "special and important because of the dangerous events in the region."

He told the Jordanian news agency (PETRA) that his country is interested in establishing close relations with Iran "based on clear and sound foundations."

He also hoped that the visit would provide an opportunity for exchange of ambassadors and the reopening of their embassies.

Al-Masri also said that the holding of a ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Tehran will be discussed with Iranian officials during his Tehran visit.

Earlier this month Iran and Jordan resumed diplomatic relations broken since January 1981.

The foreign minister of Jordan will stay here for two days.

Upon his arrival, the Jordanian foreign minister told reporters that both Iran and Jordan shared a border with Iraq, and therefore they had to consult with each other now that Iraq has gone into a war.

Al-Masri cited the situation in the Persian Gulf and the region as well as cooperation between Muslim states among topics he would discuss with Iranian officials.

He made it clear that Jordan was fully observing the U.N.-approved economic sanctions against Iraq.

Asked about the number of Iraqi refugees in Jordan, he said "there is no Iraqi refugee in Jordan. Most refugees fleeing to Jordan are nationals of other countries, most of them used to live in Kuwait." [sentence as received]

Al-Masri said Jordan has hosted more than 800,000 refugees since Iraq occupied Kuwait on August 2 and has overcome all difficulties despite its lack of facilities.

Praises Diplomatic Ties

NC2701191091 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri arrived in Tehran this afternoon for talks with Iranian officials on the Persian Gulf crisis and bilateral ties.

Al-Masri was welcomed upon arrival at Mehrabad airport by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Jordanian foreign minister made a statement at the airport to our correspondent. The following is a recording of the statement:

[Begin al-Masri recording] The purpose of my visit is to activate the diplomatic ties we recently resumed, to (?lend) them momentum and foster their steady development, because Jordan and Iran are two Islamic states that share much in common. Likewise, at this point in time when a destructive war is being waged in the Gulf and Iraq, we are two countries which have borders with Iraq. It is inevitable that we hold consultations with one another on regional events and on the prospects for some issues, such as Islamic cooperation. Furthermore, there are some bilateral issues we hope to establish and discuss, God willing. [end recording]

Meets With Velayati

LD2701202291 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—Visiting Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri today told his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati that the Jordanian people have always been keen to hear the resumption of Tehran-Amman diplomatic ties.

Al-Masri said the Jordanian people greatly rejoiced at hearing the news about the renewal of Iranian-Jordanian diplomatic relations Saturday.

The Jordanian foreign minister added "the Islamic Republic is a strong Islamic state in the region and popular with our people. The Muslim nation of Jordan has always tended to have the best and strongest ties with your country."

On the Persian Gulf crisis, al-Masri said since the very beginning of Iraq's August invasion of Kuwait, Jordan has urged an Iraqi pull-out from that country and has sought an Arab solution to the conflict.

The Jordanian foreign minister also voiced his country's opposition to the presence of foreign forces in the region, particularly in Islamic lands.

Velayati said that contacts between governments and peoples were essential to relations between the two countries, adding that such contacts started with a visit to Tehran of some Jordanian members of parliament which was evaluated by Iran as useful for both nations.

Converting to the Persian Gulf crisis, Velayati said "the current situation is not in the interest of any country in the region. It benefits only foreign countries and is an excuse for their presence."

Since the outset of the crisis, Velayati said, Iranian officials in their frequent meetings with Iraqi authorities have rejected their invasion of Kuwait and cautioned them that such a move would not be in their interest.

Denouncing the presence of foreign troops in the region, Velayati said the Islamic Republic has been, and still is, making utmost efforts to end the devastating war in the best possible manner.

He also reiterated Iran's request that the Organization of the Islamic Conference hold an emergency meeting to solve the problem of the region which concern only Muslims.

Karrubi on Iraqi Territory

LD2801112191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The Jordanian foreign minister, Mr. Tahir al-Masri, and his accompanying delegation met with the Majles speaker, Mr. Karrubi, this morning. In the course of this meeting, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations, the expansion of parliamentary ties, and Persian Gulf issues. The Jordanian foreign minister said the objective of his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran is to study ways of expanding ties and ways to end the war in the region.

Referring to the need to preserve Iraq's terrorial integrity, the Jordanian foreign minister, on the United States double standard toward UN Security Council resolutions, said: We demand strict enforcement of international laws at all levels.

In conclusion, the Jordanian foreign minister asked for expansion of the two countries' parliamentary ties as a suitable basis for strengthening mutual relations.

Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Islamic Majles, expressed the hope that the two countries' ties in various political, economic, and cultural fields will expand. Mr. Karrubi added that the expansion of ties between the two parliaments is beneficial for bilateral relations and regional issues.

Referring to the crisis in the region, Mr. Karrubi said: Unfortunately, the Muslim resources and manpower are attacked in the onslaught by the U.S. and Western forces and are being destroyed. He went on: Attempts must be undertaken to bring about a ceasefire as soon as possible, as well as the speedy establishment of a ceasefire and averting the spread of the war. [sentence as heard] We are prepared to offer any assistance.

Mr. Karrubi added: Preserving Iraq's territorial integrity has been a principle of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the start of the crisis. He stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran has employed all its means for this purpose.

In conclusion, the speaker of the Majles expressed the hope that with efforts by Muslim states the war in the region will end as soon as possible.

Discusses Gulf With President

LD2801123291 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 28, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani today stressed that the only way to save the region from the Western domination and to expel the Zionist regime from the occupied Palestinian lands was for the Muslims to get united.

The president also regretted that "Iraq's blunder and its occupation of Kuwait" had caused a new rift in the rank of Muslims leading to the presence of the foreigners in the region and exploitation of the issue by the Zionist regime.

Speaking in a meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher al-Masri here today, President Rafsanjani stressed that Iran will continue to employ all its means to end the current bloodshed in the region.

Expressing pleasure over the resumption of Tehran-Amman ties, al-Masri handed a written message from

King Husayn to President Rafsanjani and called for promotion of mutual ties in political, economic and cultural fields.

He referred to the massacre of Muslims and destruction of their properties in the region and voiced Jordan's concern over the current developments in the region. He also regretted that the Zionist regime took advantage of the issue.

He stressed that Jordan had no prior information about the Iraqi intention to invade Kuwait nor is it aware of the curent schemes in the region.

He said Jordan was against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and presence of alien forces in the region and stressed the need for the implementation of a cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war.

He also voiced Jordan's full support for Iran's peace efforts through the organization of Islamic Conference and the Non-aligned Movement.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Al-Masri arrived here Sunday afternoon on a 2-day official visit.

Commentary Reviews Ties

LD2801145691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings, dear listeners. Let me draw your attention to today's commentaries: Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri arrived in Tehran yesterday for an official visit. Before leaving Amman, he said that the aim of his visit is to submit a written message from the king of Jordan to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and to hold talks with Iranian officials about the expansion of cooperation between the two countries and about Persian Gulf war developments.

The Jordanian foreign minister's trip to Iran is the first visit by a high-ranking Jordanian official for 10 years, that is, since the breaking of ties between the two countries in 1981. The current closeness between the two countries is a result of political changes inside Joran and regional developments during the past two years.

Jordan's political system changed two years ago after the lifting of the state of emergency which had been in place for 20 years. Elections were held in that country with the participation of the people and, in the first round, Islamic groups won one-third of the seats in the legislature. The active participation of Islamic groups in the Jordanian legislature and the presence of five Islamic ministers in the cabinet had effects on the country's foreign policy, expediting the trend of rapprochement between the two Muslim countries of Iran and Jordan. The ending of the imposed war two years ago removed the most fundamental axis of disagreement in the two countries' foreign policies. During the imposed war, Jordan gave comprehensive support to the invasion of our country, but after the declaration of the ceasefire, that country's hostile policy toward Islamic Iran came to an end.

In addition to internal changes in Jordan and in the region, the Persian Gulf crisis, and the start of the multinational coalition's war against Iraq, while having different consequences for Iran and Jordan, expedited the rapprochement between the two countries. As a result of the crisis, Iran's sensitive role in maintaining the political-military equilibrium of the region became clear and the establishment of ties with Iran, as a regional power, became a necessity.

At the same time, Jordan has been faced with an unprecedented economic crisis as a result of the current crisis and, with the increase in international political pressure on that country because of its support of Iraq, it is, in practice, threatened by the Zionist regime's expansionist policies.

Finally, the war between the multinational coalition againt Iraq is of special importance to both countries; both Iran and Jordan have joint borders with Iraq, and the resolution of the current crisis on the basis of a formula safeguarding the West's interests and trampling under foot the rights of Iraq and the region's Muslim people would be unacceptable.

The revelation of U.S. aims in the war against Iraq which have gone beyond the UN resolutions and the liberation of Kuwait have created the need for stopping the war and finding a political solution to the crisis and for the departure of foreign forces from the region.

In the midst of all this, confronting the conspiracies of the West and the expansionist desires of the Zionist regime is not possible other than through close ties between Islamic countries. In view of the fact that, from the point of view of geography, Jordan is situated next to occupied Palestine, there was always a threat, since the start of the current oil crisis, that Jordan would become one of the targets of Israeli aggression. After the Iraqi missile attacks on Israel, Zionist officials repeated threats of that nature and strengthened that possibility. For that reason, in order to confront the ever-increasing threats, Iran, as a leading islamic country, agreed to resume its official ties with Jordan and to establish direct links in order to confront Israel's conspiracies.

UK Envoy Denies Iraqi Religious Site Attacks

LD2701191991 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 27, IRNA—British charge d'affaires in Iran David Reddaway today submitted a statement from his government to Iran, to deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmud Va'ezi here today.

The British Government in its statement explained that allied commanders have been fully briefed on the locations of religious sites, and very clear instructions have been given to them to avoid damage to places of religious and cultural significance.

"There is no foundations to Iraq's allegations that allied aircraft have deliberately attacked Shi'ite shrines at Karbala and An Najaf, and no evidence has been produced to show that these sites have been damaged," said the statement.

Va'ezi in the meeting conveyed the significance Iran attached to preservation of security at the religious sites, and expressed grave concern over the casualties inflicted on civilians in Iraq particularly the children and the elderly, as well as the destruction of non-military sites.

"Iraqi Muslim people are innocent, and helping them is a humanitarian obligation," Va'ezi said. He also stressed that regional security should be maintained by the regional countries themselevs.

Gulf War Communique Issued With India

LD2601210491 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] A joint communique has been issued at the end of the visit to Tehran of Mr. V.C. Shukla, the Indian foreign minister. The communique states: In Tehran, the foreign ministers of Iran and India discussed the dangerous situation in the Persian Gulf, which takes on broader dimensions every day. They expressed their grave concern about the start of the war in the Persian Gulf and its tragic consequences. They consider the most important duty of the Nonaligned Movement to be an examination of ways to immediately end the war.

The foreign ministers of Iran and India agreed to continue their efforts with regard to exchanges of view which may make the establishment of peace possible—efforts which would encompass the departure of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the cessation of hostilities in the Persian Gulf region, the departure of foreign forces from the region, and other steps in line with UN Security Council resolutions.

The Iranian and Indian foreign ministers also discussed an invitation from the head of the Nonaligned Movement to a meeting, with the participation of a number of member countries, in Belgrade in early February. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the search for a solution on the basis of which the crisis and war in the Persian Gulf may be brought to an end. They agreed to play their role toward the achievement of that goal by accepting the invitation.

In their talks, the Iranian and Indian foreign ministers agreed on the further expansion of bilateral relations.

Allied Buildup on Saudi-Kuwait Border Noted

LD2601182991 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan. 26, IRNA—With the war in its 10th day, the U.S.-led ground forces are busy fortifying their positions and reshuffling their military hardware along the Saudi-Kuwaiti border, said reports.

Reports reaching here from Hafar al Batin in Saudi Arabia indicated that the Western forces has set up several missile pads, radar networks and anti-missile systems along the Kuwaiti Kuwait [as received].

According to the Sharjah-based daily AL-KHALEEJ, Egyptian and Syrian forces based in Saudi Arabia have also started moving towards the forefronts.

Yesterday, it said, Syria's 9th armoured division took new positions along the fronts and Egypt deployed a combat-engineering and anti-chemical unit on another point bordering Kuwait.

It is worth recalling that before the start of war, Muslim states with troops in Saudi Arabia, had stated that their task was to ward off any aggression on Saudi territory, and not to enter into a war with Iraq other than the liberation of Kuwait. Some had even said that in case of attack on Iraq itself, they would align themselves with Baghdad against the Washington-led axis.

But with the Western bombardment of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities becoming more brutal by the day, the Muslim states which posed themselves as the would be liberators of the Kuwaiti people, have remained silent spectators to the systematic murder of Iraqi Muslims.

AL-KHALEEJ said that American and other Western troops spent the whole day Friday digging bunkers, setting up barbed wire fences and fortifying positions of their artillery and missile units, it said.

The U.S.-led axis has also built several roads in various parts of the war fronts in a bid to stop shifting sands from slowing down the movement of their armoured units, it said.

The article which was designed to restore calm among the local populace which are scared stiff of the Iraqi Scud missiles, added that 1,200 American tanks and artillery pieces with calibres ranging from 105 mm to 115 mm and capable of firing a shell every minute at the speed of 60 kmh, are stationed on sensitive points.

If the report is to be believed, it also spoke of the Western axis assembling together mechanized, armoured, artillery, missile and electronic warfare units at the center of the operational theater, in order to rain fire on Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

Two hundred helicopter gunships armed with anti-tank missiles are now behind the new front line, it said.

The daily also referred to Iraqi military movements along the war fronts, saying that Iraqi troops were stationed 5 kms from Kuwait's border with Saudi Arabia.

A large number of Iraqi infantrymen and mechanized units have been moved to forefronts over the past two days, AL-KHALEEJ said.

Anti-War Marches in Karaj, Sari, Zahedan, Qom

LD2501204491 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Text] In a splendid march today, the Muslim and ever present people of Karaj condemned the aggression of the United States and the multinational forces against the sanctity of the region's Muslim countries and called for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and for the unconditional withdrawal of arrogant forces from the region.

[The town of] Sari, too, witnessed a march by the town's residents in protest over the U.S. warmongering in the Persian Gulf region, the bombardment of Iraq's Muslim people by the multinational forces commanded by the United States, and the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq. The marchers issued a resolution supporting the Islamic Republic of Iran's neutral stance on the Persian Gulf crisis and calling on the Islamic Republic to try to end the Persian Gulf war.

The Muslim people of Zahedan, too, in the course of a march condemned the dispatch of [foreign] forces to the Persian Gulf which has no other aim than the destruction and pillage of Muslim resources. A resolution was issued.

Iraqis residing in Qom, too, held a protest march in which they condemned the multinational forces attack against Iraq and U.S. expansionism in the region and called on international circles and the Islamic Republic of Iran to make extensive efforts to stop the ruinous war as soon as possible.

Babol Residents Hold March Against Gulf War

LD2701231191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] Members of the various social strata in Babol today took part in a large march along the avenues of that city—strongly condemning the expansionist aims of America and multinational forces in the Persian Gulf region, the military onslought against the Islamic territory of Iraq, as well as the occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi forces.

According to the Central News Unit, in the Babol residents' march—attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ruhani, representative of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in Mazandaran; clergymen; and local officials—the marchers drew up a resolution in which they declared that they fully followed the edicts of the supreme jurisconsult, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and supported the just and principled stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward the war in the Persian Gulf. Further, the resolution condemned the military occupation of Kuwait by Iraqi forces, the military aggression of hegemonist America and its allies against Iraq, and the killing of Muslims and the destruction of the economic installations of that country. It called for an end to the war, and the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait as well as the multinational forces from the Persian Gulf region.

Commentary Warns of Zionist 'Treacherous Policy'

LD1701155391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] While multinational forces led by America, have been subjecting Baghdad and other Iraqi cities to heavy air attacks since the early hours of this morning, and while public opinion is focused on the events of the Persian Gulf war, on the other side of the Middle East and in occupied Palestine, an abnormal and explosive situation prevails.

The leaders of the Zionist regime were aware of the start of the attack a few hours before it took place and the necessary coordination between America and Israel had been carried out in advance. America also took on the responsibility of defending the Zionist regime from any potential Iraqi attacks. Even though under war conditions Western media are officially under the control and censorship of their governments, reports received indicate that a state of emergency prevails all over the occupied territories; Zionist military ranks are on full alert, and extensive military forces and military hardware have been based on the borders with Jordan and Lebanon. Also, a substantial number of Hawk ground-to-air missile platforms have been installed in these regions. Inside occupied Palestine, 1.7 million Palestinians are imprisoned in their houses and all roads leading to Zionist settlements in the region have been completely closed. This state of affairs has increased the possibility of another disaster and the likelihood of the situation becoming explosive.

Experience has shown that Israel has always taken advantage of international and regional turmoil to carry out its treacherous policies and to create new disasters in the process. [passage omitted]

In this respect, right now, political forums are concerned that with the commotion brought about by the current Persian Gulf war and under circumstances when important international news agenices are strictly controlled and not allowed to issue news that may demoralize the coalition front of multinational forces, Israel may embark on a fresh catastrophe.

Israel already is not hiding its happiness at the start of the Desert Storm operations lead by America; and it has expressed satisfaction with American forces attacks against Iraq's missile platforms which were turned toward Israel. Israel has also called these operations a great victory. The truth is that Israel would consider any military weakening of Islamic countries as a victory for herself and some experts are pointing to the role of American Zionist politicians and strategists in creating the Persian Gulf crisis and its termination by military means. These experts believe that the leaders of the Zionist regime and Zionist pawns who influence America's foreign policy, are thinking of the establishment and materialization of a new order [nezam] in the Middle East. And it is on the same basis that the Israeli prime minister has termed the current battle being waged in the Persian Gulf as a gateway to the realization of this so-called new order.

Hence, just as political experts are predicting, the current crisis in the Persian Gulf does not mark the end of regional crises. And while the Middle East crisis and the problems of Palestine continue, and so long as the shadow of Israel hovers heavily over the region, this region will be witness to the eruption of small and large political and military crises. And in that case, a new international tension-free system whose ringleaders are right now raising the banner of war in the region will be no more than a dream and fantasy which will never be fulfilled.

Commentary Views Iraqi Moves, Israeli Restraint

NC2601063691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0450 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Commentary by Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God: The American-Iraqi war has entered its second week amid continuing air attacks. The Western forces led by America are bombing Iraqi military and civilian targets in Iraq and Kuwait. These operations are extensive and cover Iraq's entire economic and military structure. Iraq's northern, southern, western, and central areas are being bombed by ultramodern fighters several times a day. Attacks on residential and civilian areas have also been given a special place.

Ten days into the war, no efforts have been made to oust Iraq from Kuwait. In this phase, Iraq itself and its military potential are apparently the targets. From the perspective of military logic, this will not only increase Iraq's cost of holding onto Kuwait and hamper its defense, but it also will destroy what it possesses.

It is true that Iraq, having foreseen this phase of operations, has attempted to conceal its valuable and currently irreplaceable military materiel. The constant repetition of the fact that Iraq's war machine remains intact or has suffered only the slightest damage is being used as a justification for continuing the extensive military operations against Iraq and crushing it.

Iraq at this time has withdrawn completely into a defensive shell and has only resorted to anti-missile defenses and the firing of missiles at Israeli and Saudi territory. The Iraqis' limited and infrequent air attacks have not been successful. At any rate, it should be accepted that under current conditions and in the absence of serious ground operations, these attempts are the only course available to the Iraqi Army.

Iraq fires missiles at Tel Aviv and Haifa in the hope of drawing Israel into the war and using the Arab Muslims' hatred of the regime occupying Jerusalem to legitimize the war.

In any event, the explosion of a few missiles in Israel apparently has not been able to fulfill Iraq's wish. Even though Israel's entry into the war may be useful in showing that it will not allow Iraq's attacks to go unanswered, such a development would be of no military value, because the targets that can be attacked from Israel are already being attacked by America and its allies.

With its self-restraint and its political-military considerations, Israel is working to further its long-term objectives in the occupied territories. Of course the implementation of this policy has become possible with the announcement that a $13-billion grant is to be extended by America. Israel will use this amount to house newly arrived Jewish immigrants.

Parallel with the military developments of the war, the political efforts by Iraq's neighbors and regional Muslim countries to bring about a rapid termination of the war also continue. In recent days Iran, Pakistan, and Syria held brief but comprehensive talks in Tehran on this problem. Separate talks were also held during the visits by the Pakistani prime minister and the Syrian vice president to Tehran, during which the need for Iraq to leave Kuwait and for the foreign forces to withdraw from the region were emphasized.

Paper Hails Leaders' Statements on Neutrality

LD2601210191 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan 26, IRNA—The Persian daily ETTELA'AT today hailed the observations by the leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on Thursday, and the supportive comments by President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Friday, as a "clear definition and explanation of the meaning of Iran's neutrality in the Persian Gulf war."

In view of the candid explanations of the leader and the president on no account can the neutrality of the Islamic Republic of Iran be interpreted as "indifference, irresponsibility or sit-back-and-watch policy" in respect of the Persian Gulf war, it said.

"Because Iran is neutral it will not get itself involved in the war, but on the other hand, because Iran is not indifferent it finds it a responsibility to steer independent of the parties to the conflict, and protest the war crimes committed by either party to the war...

"The innocent people are the guiltless victims of acts of ambition, domineering policies, as well as the victims of world devourers of oil. To fly 3,000 times over Iraq, to drop bombs over residential and military areas over only one day creates a situation which is painful and catastrophic. Today the wealth of the Muslim peoples of the region, and their lives and the tokens of their civilization are being ruined, trampled and harmed. Thousands of tons of oil is now burning at the Persian Gulf waters."

The daily said that the the Islamic Republic of Iran not only condemns those "crimes against the masses" and not only considers the "elements behind those crimes—that is the the people at the helm in Washington—as being war criminals and murderers," but at the same time exploits every means to pool the potentials as well as the "common responsibility of the states of the region to confront the unwelcome incidents of the war."

The daily reasoned that "if the goal of the U.S.-led axis is to take back Kuwait then the center of confrontation and war should have been on the very territory of Kuwait. Kuwait has now turned almost to a military and non-residential area, and is the bastion of resistance of Iraq against the invading Western armies. But it is unfortunate that the West has made the central point of war the airspace of Iraq, while totally innocent people continue to burn in the fire of the violent crimes of Saddam and Bush."

Commentary Urges Neutrality in Gulf War

LD2601220791 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1640 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the past few days expounded on the Islamic Republic of Iran's stands on the current war in the region, focussing on Iran's view on Iraq's motive behind its invasion of Kuwait and the U.S. objectives behind its presence in the region, examining the role of the Islamic Republic as a revolutionary and powerful country in the region.

Iraq invaded Kuwait with a clear design for expansionism and was confronted by the United States, whose aim was to assume control of the region's oil resources. The war between the U.S. and Iraq, which started under the pretext of the invasion of Kuwait, is—apparently, in view of the activities of the first ten days of the war—aimed at motives beyond that of forcing Iraq out of Kuwait. All attention is focused on the defeat of Iraq and the destruction of that country's defensive and economic capability. All these tragedies have resulted from the Iraqi Government's miscalculations and expansionist designs. [passage omitted]

Iran distinguished between the Iraqi Government and the Iraqi people, a stand observed even during the imposed war to the extent that, despite Iraq's aerial and missile attacks, Iran refrained from retaliating in kind or limited its response to a defensive level. The prevailing conditions in the war between the U.S. and Iraq also serve to strengthen this view. This war, while precluding Iraq's expansionist and avaricious designs—albeit at the cost of U.S. mastery over the region's resources—divests the Iraqi nation of their means of livelihood. It is thus imperative to end or curtail its dimension. In view of these conditions, Iran has adopted a policy of neutrality, neutrality not in the sense of indifference but in the sense that neither side merits the support and backing of Iran. The clear stand of Iran was adopted by the National Security Council, and it does not mean abandoning those principles by which we stand.

Thus, Iran calls for an end to the occupation of Kuwait and for the departure of the alien forces from the region. Iran has, on the basis of its specified principles and the defense of the country's national security, refrained from becoming involved in the recent clashes. It reserves its legitimate right to adopt any kind of initiative to safeguard the independence, the sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of Iran in the face of any potential aggression. [passage omitted]

Iran currently has become one of the important centers for international efforts toward ending the war. These efforts began prior to the outset of the war and continue in a more effective and intense manner.

The rate of the losses and damages incurred as a result of the recent conflict—which were directly targeted at the people and the resources of the Islamic countries—have induced a great number of relatively neutral countries to embark upon initiating serious political efforts. In this regard, a Pakistani delegation headed by the prime minister of Pakistan and a high ranking delegation led by the Syrian vice president have been to Tehran and discussed ways of ending the war with our country's officials. Meanwhile, representatives from a number of Nonaligned Movement countries will visit Tehran in the next few days.

Commentary Sees 'More Sensitive Phase' in War

LD2701090691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0614 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] With the advance of Iraqi forces into Saudi Arabian territory, the Persian Gulf crisis and the confrontation between the multinational Western forces led by the United States and the Iraqi forces has entered a more sensitive phase. About two weeks after the start of widespread clashes, mainly involving aerial battles and the firing of missiles by the two sides at each other's positions, this is in fact the start of a new development in a sensitive stage.

By suddenly attacking the Saudi border and driving the multinational forces back, the Iraqi forces entered Saudi territory and captured sensitive areas. According to Iraqi reports, this attack by Iraqi forces followed an operation by the Western forces, in which the multinational forces were driven back. It is said that units of Iraqi land forces took part in the operation, supported by armored forces, and a number of squadrons of that country's air force provided air cover.

Meanwhile, U.S. military authorities said that the Iraqi forces stationed in Kuwait, which had kept their distance from the Saudi border since the start of the war launched by America and her allies against Baghdad, are once again strengthening their positions near the border. At the same time U.S. and British forces are grouping to the south of the border to stage a possible land offensive. Western military authorities also stressed that Iraqi armored vehicles are constantly moving from one position to another.

The important point is that the first Iraqi land offensive against Saudi Arabia, following the invasion of Iraq by America and the multinational forces, could take the war into more sensitive stages, which would be effective in the future of the region. [passage omitted]

Intelligence and reports indicate that clashes in the region are being intensified. This has severely threatened the region's stability. The blowing up of Kuwaiti oil fields will cause a great deal of ecological harm in the region, and if it continues, whatever the economic and human losses, it will definitely destroy the Middle Eastern environment.

Another important point in this connection is that the extensive bombing of Iraqi cities, whatever its inhumane aspects, is outside the scope of Security Council approval; and by this means America intends to further establish her military strength in the region, while destroying Iraqi resources.

As Dr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, has said: The bombardment of Iraq's residential areas and resources by the multinational forces and America are condemned. This is because that by destroying the resources of the Iraqi people, they wish to see no government in the future of that country capable of maintaining Iraq as a powerful Islamic country in the region. That is only in the interests of the regime occupying Jerusalem and Western agents in the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly opposes this idea and will do its best to foil this plot.

In any case, a summation of the situation in the region indicates that with the stepping up of the bombardment of Iraq by America and Iraq's land attack on Saudi Arabia, a new trend has started in the Persian Gulf, and one should await future developments in this connection.

Commentary Assails UK Expulsion of Iraqis

LD2601212991 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 25 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The British Government announced yesterday that 33 Iraqi residents in Britain had been considered POWs and will be kept in a military camp. [passage omitted] Informed observers consider this as a passive move on the part of London in response to the Baghdad regime's action in transferring the POWs to industrial and military centers. This is not for the first time that the British Government has resorted to such a move which is a blatant breach of international law. Earlier another two Iraqi students were arrested as POWs.

Indisputably under the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 and the Universal Charter of Human Rights, students cannot be termed as POW's based on accusations which are yet to be established. For the Iraqi regime which is using diplomats as hostages and the POW's as human shields in military and industrial facilities, it will not be that important if 33 of the Iraqi students are kept as POWs in military camps. By resorting to such a move the British Government, an advocate of human rights, as well as the clamorous BBC propaganda on breach of human rights by Iraq in showing the POW's on the TV screen, have demonstrated to what extent they respect international laws and attach significance to that.

In case this practice becomes prevalent as a desirable tactic, every country, from now onwards, may resort to any objects, schemes, it deems fit on the excuse of the violation of the international regulations by its adversaries. Obviously under such conditions, all human achievements and international laws and fraternal ties and equalities amongst countries will be questioned. This sends a serious warning to all freedom-loving people in the world so that they show appropriate reactions to such acts and block attempts to promote such anti-human policies. If students all over the world do not react to this illegal move of the British Government, they will certainly witness arrest of students on other pretexts in the future, as well.

Pakistan

U.S., Pakistani Troop Clashes in Gulf Denied

BK2701155291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] All Pakistani troops are safe in Saudi Arabia; there is no cause for any concern. A press release issued by the Interservice Public Relations Directorate [ISPRD] in Rawalpindi today described as baseless and concocted reports alleging that some people have been either wounded or killed in clashes between Pakistani and U.S. troops.

On Pakistani troop engagements in Saudi Arabia, the press release said they are involved in routine exercises far from frontlines. Moreover, as explained earlier, Pakistani troops can be used only for defense and are not a part of the forces stationed on the Iraqi and Kuwaiti borders. Parents and family members of Pakistani troops stationed in Saudi Arabia have been advised that if they do not receive any messages about the troops, they should contact the ISPRD in Rawalpindi or the units where the soldiers were deployed before their departure for Saudi Arabia.

Sharif Comments on Iraq's Territorial Integrity

BK2701161191 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister has said that Syria, Iran, and Turkey respect the territorial integrity of Iraq and do not favor any change in the geographical borders of that country. Nawaz Sharif stated this following a visit to these three countries. You might recall that certain quarters had expressed apprehension that these three countries bordering Iraq are suspicious of each other's intentions toward Iraq.

A Pakistani official spokesman told newsmen in Jeddah today that Nawaz Sharif has been assured by these countries that they respect Iraq's integrity and solidarity. During his visit, the prime minister held discussions with these three countries on this issue; they told him they do not wish to see Iraq destroyed. The prime minister's message will remove all doubts and suspicions in this regard. The spokesman added that similar messages will be sent to other Islamic countries on this matter.

Reviews Gulf Tour

BK2801030891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned to Islamabad early this morning after a six-day peace mission to six Islamic countries. He visited Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia where he held talks with the leaders of those countries on the Gulf crisis and ways to solve it.

The prime minister held talks with King Fahd in Riyadh last night and apprised him of all aspects of his peace mission, as well as the position taken by the countries he visited on the Gulf crisis. Nawaz Sharif said most of the countries believe that the Islamic Conference Organization should play a major role in resolving the crisis.

King Fahd commended the prime minister for taking a principled stance on the Gulf problem and his efforts to find a peaceful solution. He said Pakistan has always been in the forefront in efforts to resolve the problems by the Muslim community. King Fahd said Saudi Arabia considered Pakistan a close, trustworthy, and brotherly country.

Both sides agreed with the proposal to convene the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers' meeting. The venue and date are yet to be decided. Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is remaining in Saudi Arabia to continue talks with his Saudi counterpart.

Senate Passes Resolution on Gulf Peace Plan

BK2801030891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jan 91

[Text] The Senate passed last night a resolution outlining a peace plan for ending the Gulf war. The resolution, adopted after a 4-day debate on the Gulf situation, calls for an immediate cease-fire and cessation of all hostilities. The resolution also calls for the simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and of all multinational forces from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf under the supervision of the United Nations.

The resolution proposes that the United Nations set up an appropriate mechanism to settle any territorial or other dispute between Iraq and Kuwait.

The resolution says a peacekeeping force drawn from the Muslim countries should be established in Kuwait under the supervision of the United Nations and the Islamic Conference Organization.

The resolution calls for a commitment by the United Nations that the issues of Palestine and Kashmir will be immediately taken up in the Security Council to implement the relevant UN resolutions on the issues.

The resolution condemns the indiscriminate bombing of Iraq, particularly of the civilian population, by the allied air force.

The resolution was moved by Mohammad Ali Khan, Mahbubul Haq, Professor Khurshid Ahmed, Syed Abbas Shah, Noorjehan Panezai, and Ahmed Mian Soomro. The house passed an amendment proposed by Bashir Ahmed Khan. Other amendments proposed by him and Javed Jabbar were dismissed.

Earlier, at the end of the debate on the Gulf situation, Federal Law Minister Syed Fakhr Imam reiterated Pakistan's position which is based on principles. Referring to the various points raised by members during the debate on the Gulf situation, he said all these issues are under the government's consideraion.

Islamic Party Urges Arab League, ICO Mediation

BK2601063291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam acting chief Maulana Mohammad Ajmal Khan said the Gulf crisis should be solved through the efforts of the Arab League or the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. Addressing party members in Lahore yesterday, he demanded an immediate end to the war in the Gulf. He urged the Pakistani Government to pursue a balanced policy on the Gulf.

Muslims Urged To Foil 'Unholy Designs of Jews'

BK2601064291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 91

[Text] Jamaat-i-Islami Amir Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed has appealed to the Muslim community to unite to foil the nefarious and unholy designs of the Jews. Addressing a gathering in Rawalpindi yesterday, he appealed to world Muslims to realize the delicate situation in the Gulf and make every effort to resolve the Gulf crisis.

He criticized Ms. Benazir Bhutto's statement on the Gulf that she made on American television.

Accord on Nonattack on Nuclear Sites Ratified

BK2701163491 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Jan 91

[Text] The governments of Pakistan and India have exchanged instruments of ratification of agreement on prohibition of attacks on each other's nuclear installations and facilities. The agreement was signed in Islamabad on 31 December 1988. A simultaneous announcement made in Islamabad and New Delhi says with exchange of instruments, the agreement has come into effect from today.

Chief of Staff Sees 'No Danger' From India

BK2801095591 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Jan 91 p 14

[Text] Bahawalpur, Jan 27—Pakistan faces no danger from India which had its own numerous problems. Talking to the newsmen after prize distribution on conclusion of golf tournament on Saturday afternoon the Chief of the Army Staff [COAS] Gen. Mirza Aslam Beg said that India was erecting five feet high fencing along Pak-India border and thus it was being sealed.

Replying to a question regarding uprising in Kashmir Gen. Aslam Beg said, it was for the first time that an indigenous movement had been launched by Kashmiris themselves. This struggle, he said, could not now be stopped and suppressed by India.

Replying to another question regarding sending of Pakistan Army to Saudi Arabia, COAS said it was in the interest of Pakistan and Prime Minister has already answered to this question.

When asked about Gulf war, Gen. Aslam Beg said, Prime Minister [PM] Nawaz Sharif was already on peace mission. Referring to talks about the much publicised nuclear bomb he said when the PM is back home he would inquire from him about preparation of atom bombs by Pakistan. Gen. Beg said he had referred to 15 bombs just in routine.

However, he said this question should be put to Dr. Qadir. He said, Dr. Qadir was confident that if the government entrusted him this task (of making nuclear arms) he could fulfil it.

General Aslam Beg asked the journalist to become members of the golf club and play golf.

Agencies add: Later addressing the Garrison Officers, the Chief of Army Staff talked about the operational and security environment of Pakistan. He also spoke on the issues like Kashmir and Afghanistan and discussed at length the situation arising out of the Gulf War and its effects. He dwelt in detail on the threat to Pakistan and the operational preparedness of Pakistan Army to deal with this threat.

Officials View Change in Relations With U.S.

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[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 28 (AFP)—Deep cuts in U.S. aid to Pakistan and growing anti-American sentiment since the outbreak of the Gulf war are bringing the two countries' longstanding alliance to an end, officials and leaders here say.

Reacting to reports that Washington plans to slash aid to Pakistan and other countries, Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said Sunday that Islamabad had planned to do without aid from Washington. "We were not expecting anything," he said.

A recent U.S. State Department notice to congress said it would cut military and economic aid to Pakistan from about 500 million dollars to 208 million dollars in the current fiscal year.

The U.S. Embassy confirmed that Pakistan was informed of the aid cut two months ago, and said the decision relates to a law barring aid to countries pursuing a weapon-oriented nulcear programme.

Aid was suspended October 1 because Washington was unable to certify that Islamabad was not developing nuclear weapons. Pakistan dismisses the suspicions as "baseless."

Pakistan, a strong U.S. ally with more than 10,000 troops among U.S.-led multinational forces in Saudi Arabia, will be denied most of the new amount unless the United States is satisfied that it is not building nuclear arms.

Bilateral talks failed to restore the aid and analysts here said this latest move signalled the beginning of an irreparable rift.

Khurshid Ahmed, chairman of the self-reliance committee appointed by the government to find ways of ending Pakistan's dependence on foreign aid, said: "Thank you, America." But he said the move came at the wrong moment. Pakistan faces economic hardship brought on by the Gulf crisis and mounting unrest for its stand against Iraq.

"It will create some economic difficulties but it will not crush Pakistan," said Mr. Ahmed, a former planning minister and member of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance. "At last the country will get rid of the crutches of the decades-old dependence on U.S. aid," he said, calling the cut a political move aimed at weakening the Moslem world. "America no longer fears the Soviet Union—it feels endangered by Islam," Mr. Ahmed said.

Most analysts agree U.S. interest in the region dwindled with the Soviet troop withdrawal from neighbouring Afghanistan and reforms in Moscow.

A senior army officer said he believed prospects for reviving the old partnership were "very bleak."

Pakistan, the third largest recipient of U.S. aid until 1989, had concluded a four billion dollar 1988-93 package of economic assistance and military loans and signed a deal for 60 F-16 aircraft from the United States.

Analysts said the cuts could upset the whole package and jeopardise military purchases for Pakistan, which shares borders with China, India, Iran and the Soviet Union.

Sources said Pakistan's Army has already made alternate arrangements to overcome problems of spare parts for the largely U.S.-trained force.

Karachi's left-wing magazine newsline accused Washington last week of using aid to influence national policy, adding that the United States had decisive influence in shaping Pakistani governments in the early 1950s following its partition from India.

Aitzaz Ahsan, a former minister in the government of ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said the decision to cut aid was unfortunate but "we will support the government's policy of self-reliance."

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif should reject "any U.S. condition which goes against the national interest," he added.

Zahid Sarfraz, a former interior minister and a member of Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League, said the move added "insult to the injuries" Pakistan sustained in sending its troops to Saudi Arabia.

He also criticised Washington's linking of Pakistan, which condemned Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait, and Yemen, which voted against a U.N. Security Council resolution authorizing force to remove Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Yemen's aid was also cut, along with the Philippines.

Mr. Sarfraz called the aid cut "the beginning of the end" of nearly 40-year-old ties, and said the time had come for Pakistan to review its friendship with the United States. He said Pakistan should now cultivate links with Japan, France and Germany to fill its military and economic needs.

Self-Reliance Following U.S. Aid Cut Urged

BK2801100191 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Turning the Screw"]

[Text] Reportedly, the United States is cutting its military and economic aid to Pakistan by fifty percent. However, even the rest will be withheld unless the US is convinced that Pakistan is not building nuclear weapons. Pakistan was supposed to receive 564 million dollars for the current year as part of the six year US aid package of economic and military assistance negotiated in 1987. After the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan US pressure on Pakistan has steadily increased to unilaterally renounce the nuclear option as a condition for continued US aid. Last October was a turning point when the US President refused to certify, in effect, that Pakistan's nuclear programme was peaceful. Now it seems the US has given the screw another turn by, in any case, cutting the aid due for the current year by half.

The cool response of the United States to a Pakistan government tilt towards Saudi Arabia in the current Gulf conflict is another indicator of the US policy makers approach to the issue of Pakistan's nuclear programme. Clearly, the bottom line here is inspection of nuclear facilities. Pakistan has maintained, quite rightly, that the nuclear issue has to be settled on a regional basis and has expressed its willingness to take all kinds of measures, on a reciprocal basis with India, to ensure that the region remains free of nuclear weapons. However, since Pakistan is much more dependent on US aid than India, it is for us to start gearing up for the challange ahead.

As a result of the Gulf war oil prices in Pakistan have increased dramatically resulting in a general price hike. On the other hand remittances by Pakistanis working in Gulf countries are going down. And, not least, the US is likely to put pressure also on international financial institutions like the IMF, World Bank and other lending agencies to cut back on loans to Pakistan.

Of course, the government has been conveying the impression, ever since matters came to a head last year, that it is not particularly troubled by the prospects of an aid cut off and that it could well be a blessing in disguise to the extent that it helps push the nation towards the ideal of self sufficiency. In response to reports of reduction in US aid the Finance Minister has again said that while non-restoration of US aid or cuts in it will certainly cause problems but the country will manage somehow, pointing out that long-term economic plans are already being drawn up without taking such aid into consideration. This is reassuring but it is still far from clear whether we have started working on a realistic programme for doing without aid while keeping productivity at the level necessary in order to meet the nation's minimum requirements. Nor are there signs of a genuine austerity drive or a real change in wasteful consumption patterns. If we are serious about relying on our own resources much greater effort and sacrifice will probably be called for.